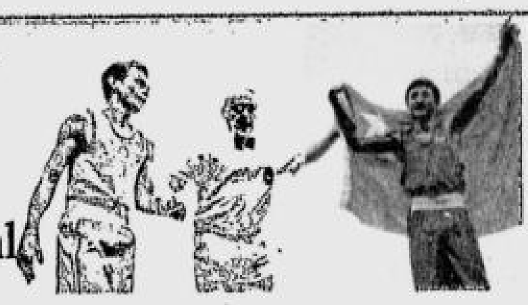
SPORTS / A34

Tañamor settles for silver medal



BUSINESS / B1

South Korean firm keen on nuclear plant in RP

NEWS / A4

Policemen find 8 skeletal remains in Davao mass grave

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Dollywood: Piolo-Sam's exposé may be hearsay

Jammers cut off cell phone blabbers

DI LANG SILENT MODE KUNDI NO-SIGNAL!

SAN FRANCISCO—One afternoon in early September, an architect boarded his commuter train and became a cell phone vigilante. He sat down next to a

JAMMERS/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, November 5, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 330 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Fairy-tale ending eludes Filipino twins

SCARSDALE, NEW YORK—IT HAD ALL THE trappings of a Cinderella story.

Carl and Clarence Aguirre, impoverished Filipino twins conjoined at the top of their heads, arrived in New York in 2003, sick and malnourished, and after a series of death-defying operations, emerged late one night on separate gurneys—fragile, sedated

FAIRY-TALE/ A18

GMA, De Venecia affirm Lakas unity

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday said Lakas leaders had agreed not to allow "small hurts" wreck party unity, and other Lakas officials sought to finally put down reports that Malacañang would move to unseat Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The party's top guns—Ms Arroyo, De Venecia and former President Fidel V. Ramos, chair emeritus—met with about a dozen other Lakas leaders on Saturday night to try and patch up rifts in the party leadership ahead of the reopening of the 14th Congress today after weeks of recess.

In a statement, Ms Arroyo said it was the sentiment of the party leaders that teamwork and unity "should always prevail and not allow small hurts to get in the way of staying as one family and fulfilling our hopes for the people."

"Leadership controversies within the [legislature] shall be put to an end," she said, apparently alluding to recent infighting in the House of Representatives over the Speaker's post.

House leader Rep. Prospero Nograles of Davao City squelched reports of a revolt against De Venecia. "The only major change possible in the House is probably the caterer at the South lounge of congressmen—the food ought to be better," he said in a text message.

Majority Leader Arthur Defensor told the INQUIRER: "Unfortunately for those who want to see

GMA/ A12

SURROUNDED by her legislative allies, President Macapagal-Arroyo sits between Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel V. Ramos during a caucus on Saturday in Malacañang. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Ayala: Blast not from gas

Glorietta owner tells PNP: Probe other angles

By DJ Yap

AYALA LAND INC. YESTERDAY refuted the theory that a buildup of methane gas and diesel fumes triggered the Oct. 19 explosion at Glorietta 2, citing the findings of its own foreign consultants that contradicted those of the police.

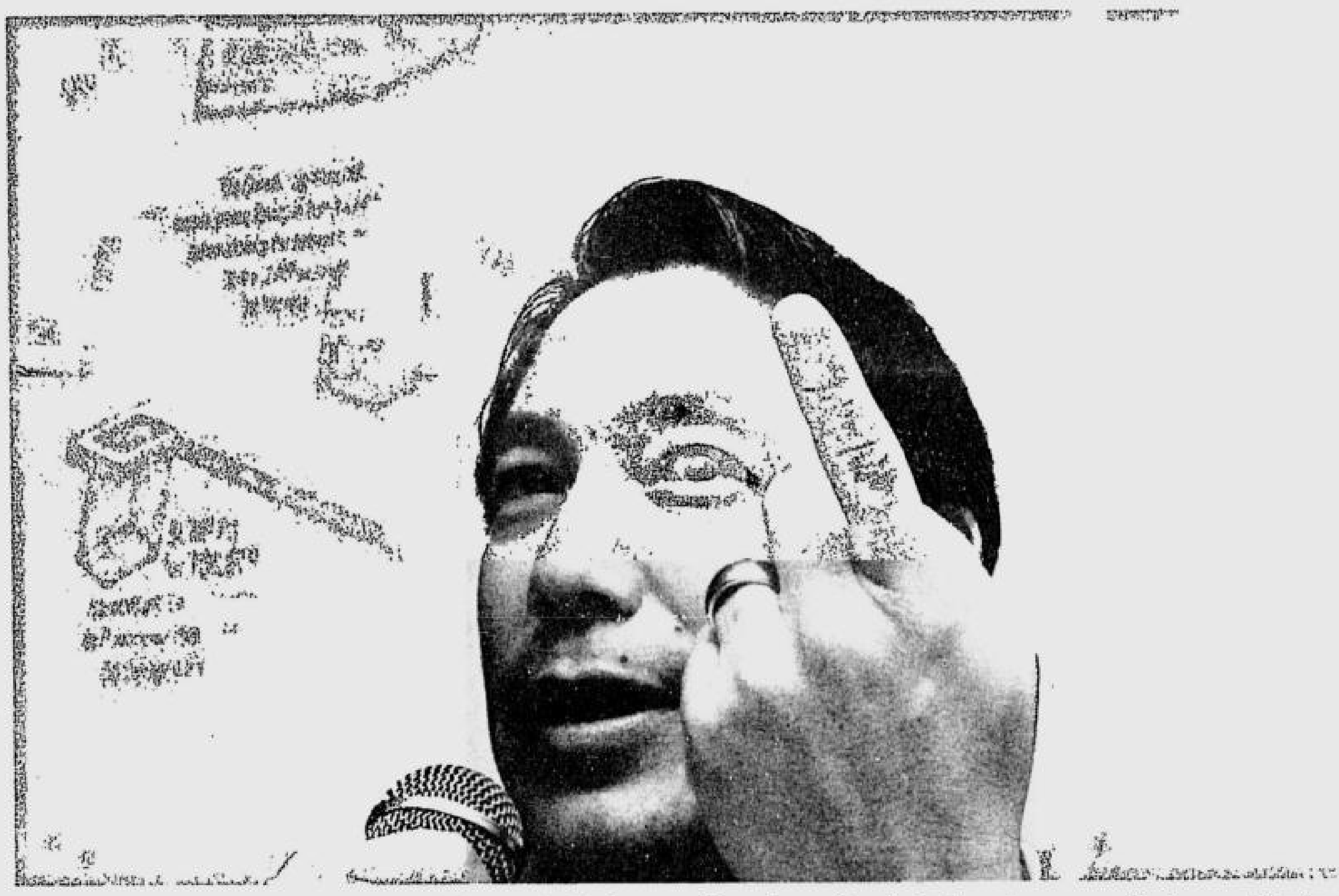
ALI, owner of Glorietta mall, suggested that the police abandon the "primary hypothesis" that a combination of methane gas from the sump pits and fumes from the diesel tank in the basement had caused the blast.

Jaime Ayala, ALI president and chief executive officer, said the gas buildup theory proffered by the police was "highly unlikely" in light of the conditions in the basement before the blast.

"We urge them to really look into other angles to find out what happened," Ayala said at a press conference at Intercontinental Hotel Manila. "We all feel the need to explore other possibilities at this point in time."

But when asked if a bomb might have caused the blast, which killed 11 people and in-

AYALA/ A17



JAIME Ayala, president of Ayala Land Inc. which owns the Glorietta, explains to journalists the findings of a company-hired group of foreign experts on the Oct. 19 explosion at the mall in Makati City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Artists urged to condemn 'indignity' to NPC mural

By TJ Burgonio

THE "BASTARDIZATION" OF A mural at the National Press Club (NPC) has drawn condemnation from an art critic and a visual artist, and prompted calls for artists to band together to protest the act.

"I was shocked by the indignity done to the artwork. It was an offensive act," art critic Cid Reyes said.

Reyes said the NPC had no right to alter the mural painted by the Neo-Angono Artists Collective.

"I don't think it can be tampered with without the permission of the artist. Only the artist can work, rework a work of art … A work of art is sacred, sacrosanct. It must not be touched," he said.

National Artist Ben Cabrera agreed with the Angono artists that the alterations to their mural were a form of censorship.

"If you trust an artist enough to commission him to do a painting, you have to respect what he creates. And if any alterations need to be done, the artist should first be consulted or, better yet, leave it to the artist to do the changes, if he agrees," Cabrera said in an e-mailed statement.

"It is ironic that the subject of the NPC mural is press freedom when in fact the artist's intellec-

ARTISTS/ A17

Little outrage over pardon can be trouble for GMA

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

IT'S NOT CLEAR IF THE POOR are happy over the absolute pardon granted to former President Joseph Estrada. It is even less clear if they consider the pardon the beginning of a new era of a shift in the flow of resources to poverty amelioration programs under an administration that basks in the glow of humanitarianism with the clemency grant.

The urban poor have been sending mixed signals that don't indicate approval or disapproval.

In his first visit to two of the poorest urban ghettoes in Metro Manila—Vitas and Smokey Mountain in Tondo—since his release from detention last week, sizable crowds greeted Estrada, chanting "*Erap pa rin* (We are still for Erap)." Some waved placards, saying "Erap not guilty."

This echoed Estrada's protestation of innocence when he told supporters at San Juan City Hall last week following his release, "I may have committed mistakes in my career in public service, but I assure you that corruption is not one of them."

If President Macapagal-Arroyo had toured the slums of Metro Manila, especially together with the corpulent First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, after granting the pardon, she would have found out for herself what they meant when they didn't respond to Estrada's call that they applaud her for reinstating his freedom.

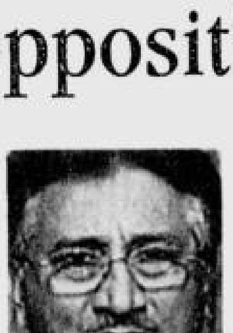
LITTLE/ A8

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Pakistan opposition leaders arrested

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—Police detained hundreds of Pakistani opposition figures and lawyers yesterday as military ruler President Pervez Musharraf tried to stifle the outcry over his imposition of a state of emergency.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said national elections, due in January, might be rescheduled because of General Musharraf's decision on Saturday to announce emergency rule, which was condemned by the United States and other Western allies.



MUSHARRAF speaks on TV after imposing emergency rule. REUTERS

"We are committed to making sure that elections are held and that democratic process flourishes in Pakistan," Aziz told a news conference. "As a result of what has happened there could be some timing differences but no decision has been made."

He said the emergency will last for as short a period as possible, adding that 400-500 people had been detained.

Among those detained were Javed Hashmi, the acting president of the party of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and Asma Jehagir, chair of the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

"Musharraf usurped the independence of the judiciary by arresting the country's chief justice and removing other judges just to save his own illegitimate rule, but he cannot survive against the people's outrage," Hashmi told reporters as he was led away with 10 aides in the central city of Multan.

Attorney General Malik Mohammed Qayyum denied claims

PAKISTAN / A12

A PARAMILITARY soldier guards the Supreme Court building in Karachi. REUTERS

6 find hope at Quezon Memorial

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOR SIX PEOPLE, THE QUEZON Memorial Circle is more than a park smack in the middle of busy, exhaust-choked Elliptical Road in Quezon City. Thanks to the kindness of strangers, it is a place of hope and new beginnings.

A simple admission to a social worker of Child Hope Asia Philippines that they had stolen cell phones in the park changed the lives of Jeffrey and Bernard (not their real names), aged 16

6 FIND/ A18

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Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience stormy weather with rough seas while the rest of Eastern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Stormy	**Roxas**	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Stormy	**Cebu**	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	**Tacloban**	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Stormy	**Gen. Santos**	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Gusty Winds	**Cagayan de Oro**	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/11/04/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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SAAN BA NAGTAGO SI GARCI NOON?

GMA bats for laws on renewable energy

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH OIL PRICES SURGING TO RECORD highs, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on Congress to pass legislation that would help the country deal with the problem by making it less reliant on imported fuel.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Arroyo was asking Congress "to pass urgent legislation on the development and promotion of renewable energy sources."

Bunye said the President was seeking the passage of such legislation after she recently attended Shell's launch of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations.

Ms Arroyo cited Shell's move as a "significant step toward reducing the country's dependence on imported fuel while promoting cleaner air."

Last week, Malacañang appealed to the public to help the government deal with runaway oil prices by conserving energy and supporting its efforts to find and develop alternative energy sources.

The price of oil in the global market hit record levels last week, and analysts warned that Asian economies like the Philippines would be affected.

On Friday, oil prices shot to record closing highs on concern about the weak US dollar and tight global energy supplies heading into the northern hemisphere winter.

New York's main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in December, soared $4.40 to a record closing high of $95.93 a barrel.

On Thursday a barrel of light sweet crude soared to $96.05, close to its absolute record of $96.24 struck the prior day.

In London Friday, Brent North Sea crude for December delivery for the first time breached the $92-level, settling $2.36 higher at $92.08 a barrel.

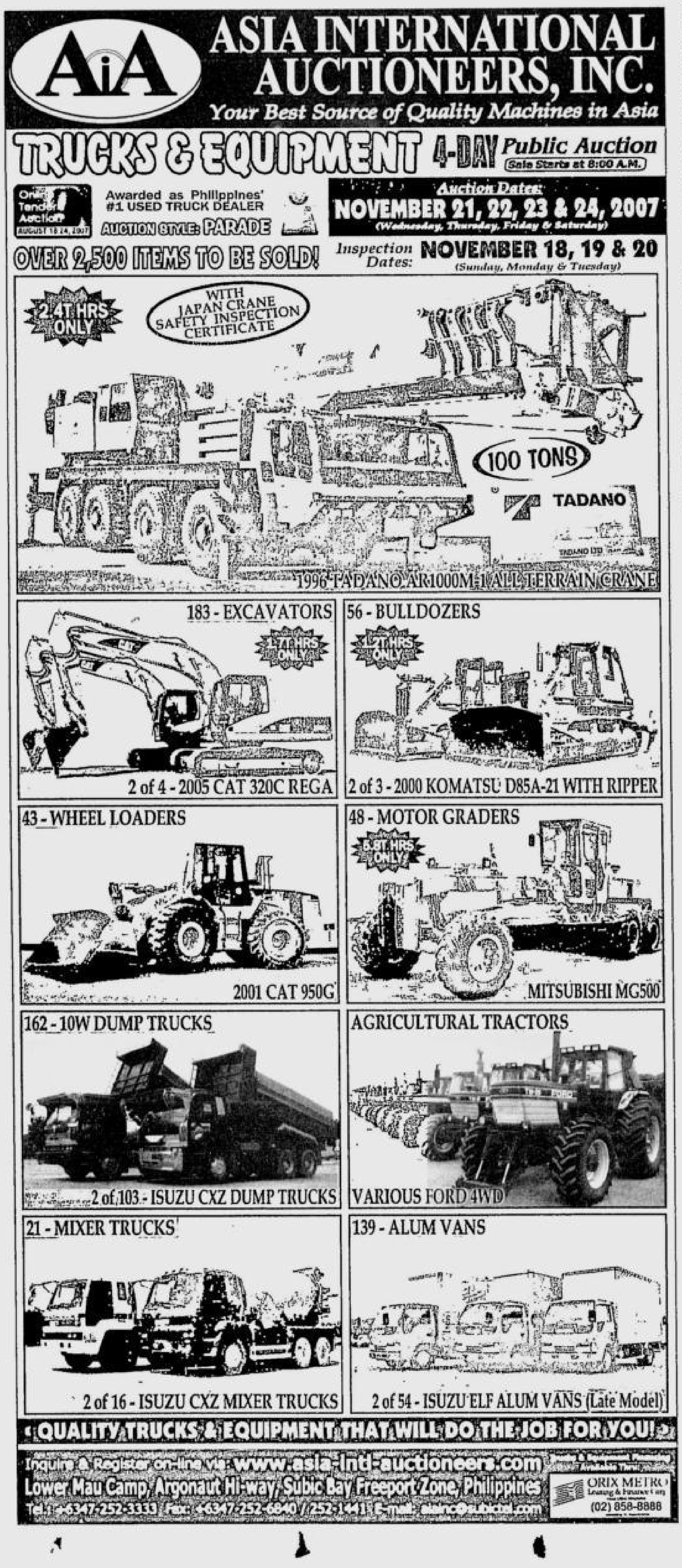
"It is clear that the market has $100 a barrel in its sights and this landmark is set to be breached before yearend," said Bank of Ireland analyst Paul Harris.

Early last week, oil prices soared to dizzying heights on news of tumbling crude reserves in the United States, the world's biggest energy consumer.

The market was also roiled by geopolitical tensions between Turkey and crude producer Iraq.

Since the start of October, New York crude has gained approximately $13 in value and London Brent about $12.

Industry experts are tracking global energy inventories because they are fearful of a supply crunch during the northern hemisphere winter months, when demand for heating fue! hits a peak. *With an AFP report*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Bedol not abducted, in hiding, say police

Wife saw him leaving with 4 armed men

By Nikko Dizon

WAS WANTED ELECTION official Lintang Bedol abducted or is he just in hiding?

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, commander of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said yesterday he believed Bedol was in hiding, trying to elude arrest.

According to the provincial election supervisor's wife, Kadigia Bedol, she last saw her husband in the early hours of Oct. 20, wearing a white T-shirt and denim jeans and talking to four armed men in front of their house in Cotabato City.

She told police, who had come to serve a warrant for his arrest on Oct. 23, that Bedol boarded the men's vehicle and has not been heard from since.

"There was no report that he was abducted," Goltiao told the INQUIRER in a text message. The regional police chief said police were intensifying their "tracking operations" to find Bedol, who was sentenced by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to serve six months in prison for indirect contempt after he failed to appear and explain the missing municipal certificates of canvass from 22 towns in Maguindanao during the May 13 midterm elections.

Bedol was cited for contempt in August but was out on bail. The arrest order came after the Comelec denied his motion for reconsideration.

One of Bedol's trusted lieutenants who asked not to be identified, told the INQUIRER that Bedol's family and friends could not categorically say if the poll official was indeed missing or he simply went away.

Up to now, the aide said, no one has received any word from Bedol.

The aide said that even Bedol's former Comelec boss, Virgilio "Garci" Garcillano, who himself had disappeared purportedly to escape threats on his life two years ago, was getting worried.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the failure of the Comelec and the police to arrest Bedol bolstered suspicions that he was being protected by "powerful political forces."

"Your guess is as good as mine. Bedol has apparently gone into hiding. Whether or not (President) Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) has a hand in it, only God knows," he said.

"What is certain is that the Comelec cannot implement its order to jail Bedol even for six short months. Is this how inutile the Comelec has become?" he said.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, who ran under the administration ticket Team Unity, edged out Genuine Opposition candidate and Pimentel's son, lawyer Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, for the final 12th slot after the missing Maguindanao certificates of canvass were "reconstructed" and recanvassed.

Pimentel said the Comelec treated Bedol lightly and did not pursue the investigation into his involvement in allegedly tampering with the results of the Maguindanao senatorial elections.

The poll body had found the results "statistically improbable" since all 11 opposition candidates and several independent candidates received no votes in the entire province. In the controversial Maguindanao tally, the administration scored a landslide victory for its 12 candidates.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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▨ **NEGROS** prelate, others hit Erap pardon /A6

▨ **BORACAY** wants to get MMDA's Bayani as consultant /A6

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Soldiers kill suspected Abu member

PHILIPPINE ARMY SOLDIERS FATALLY shot a suspected Muslim militant wanted for kidnappings, after he pulled out a pistol as they approached him in Basilan, an Army general said Sunday.

The soldiers spotted Jamal Taib in remote Maluso township on Basilan island and a group of Special Forces was approaching him on Saturday when he pulled out the weapon, prompting the soldiers to shoot and kill him, said regiment commander Brig. Gen. Arturo Ortiz.

Taib allegedly was a follower of the late Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and was wanted by authorities for a string of kidnappings in Mindanao.

The military had offered a reward of P150,000 for Taib's capture, Ortiz told reporters.

The coastal township of Maluso in Basilan used to be a key stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, which has alleged links to the al-Qaida international terror network of Osama bin Laden and has been blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization.

US-backed offensives that started in 2002 have severely set back the group, forcing many of its members to abandon Maluso and other Basilan lairs. Its leader, Janjalani, was killed by Philippine Marines in a clash on Jolo island last year.

The Abu Sayyaf currently has more than 300 armed members scattered in Basilan and nearby Jolo, from a peak of more than 1,000 guerrillas in early 2000, the military said. *AP*

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by media Made in KOREA

Search for mass graves in Davao yields 8 remains

By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

STA. CRUZ, DAVAO DEL Sur—The police are trying to locate several mass graves in a remote village here where victims of an internal purge in the rebel communist movement were said to have been buried more than two decades ago.

As of Saturday night, at least eight skeletal remains had been unearthed in the village of Sinoran.

The local police and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) led a team of residents and members of the local government in looking for several grave sites in the area, formerly a stronghold of the New People's Army.

Former NPA rebels and supporters provided authorities information on the location of the mass graves.

Supt. Francisco Villaroman, chief of the police's Intelligence Division in Southern Mindanao, said they were trying to excavate at least 56 remains that their sources had identified.

"But it may go as high as 156 if they include other victims of the insurgency campaign," Villaroman said.

Datu Danny Udal, tribal chief in the village, said some members of his tribe were ordered by the NPA rebels to bury some of those who were killed.

"We feel that that it's about time that the relatives should know, and so the spirits of the victims will be put to rest," Udal said.

Archie Laurel, 28, went to Barangay Sinoran in the hope that he would find the remains of his father, who was believed to be among those buried there.

"I am excited," he said, catching his breath during the digging. "Just to see his bones is enough for me."

Villaroman said a combined forensic team from the police scene of crime operations and independent experts will arrive on Monday to examine the recovered remains.

He said they hoped to finish the digging 10 days.

It was in the mid-1980s that the communist movement implemented what they termed "kampanyang ahos," or the purging of suspected "deep penetration agents" of the government in the guerrilla organization.

'Kabayan' to bring rains

TROPICAL STORM "KABAYAN" last night swirled closer to northern Luzon and was expected to bring heavy rains and strong winds over the area, the weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Kabayan, with maximum winds of 115 kph and gustiness of 145 kph, picked up more speed Sunday morning and hit land last night earlier than expected,

Pagasa warned residents in northern Luzon provinces to be alert for flashfloods and landslides, and storm surges in the seas throughout today until the storm exits the country on Wednesday morning.

Moving west southwest at 24 kph, the storm was forecast to hit the Sierra Madre in Casiguran, Aurora, between 7 and 8 last night, it said.

Pagasa raised storm signal No. 3 over Isabela, Ifugao, Quirino, Nueva Vizacaya and northern Aurora. These provinces will experience heavy rains and strong winds throughout the day.

"Those living in low-lying, and near mountain areas should be prepared for floods and landslides," Pagasa deputy director Nathaniel Servando said in a briefing.

Storm signal No. 2 was raised over Cagayan, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ilocos Sur, Benguet, Abra, Nueva Ecija, La Union, Pangasinan and the rest of Aurora.

Storm signal no. 1 was hoisted over the Babuyan group of islands, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, Tarlac, Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan and northern Quezon, including the Polillo islands.

Pagasa forecast light to moderate rains over Metro Manila and the Bicol region because of the latest weather disturbance.

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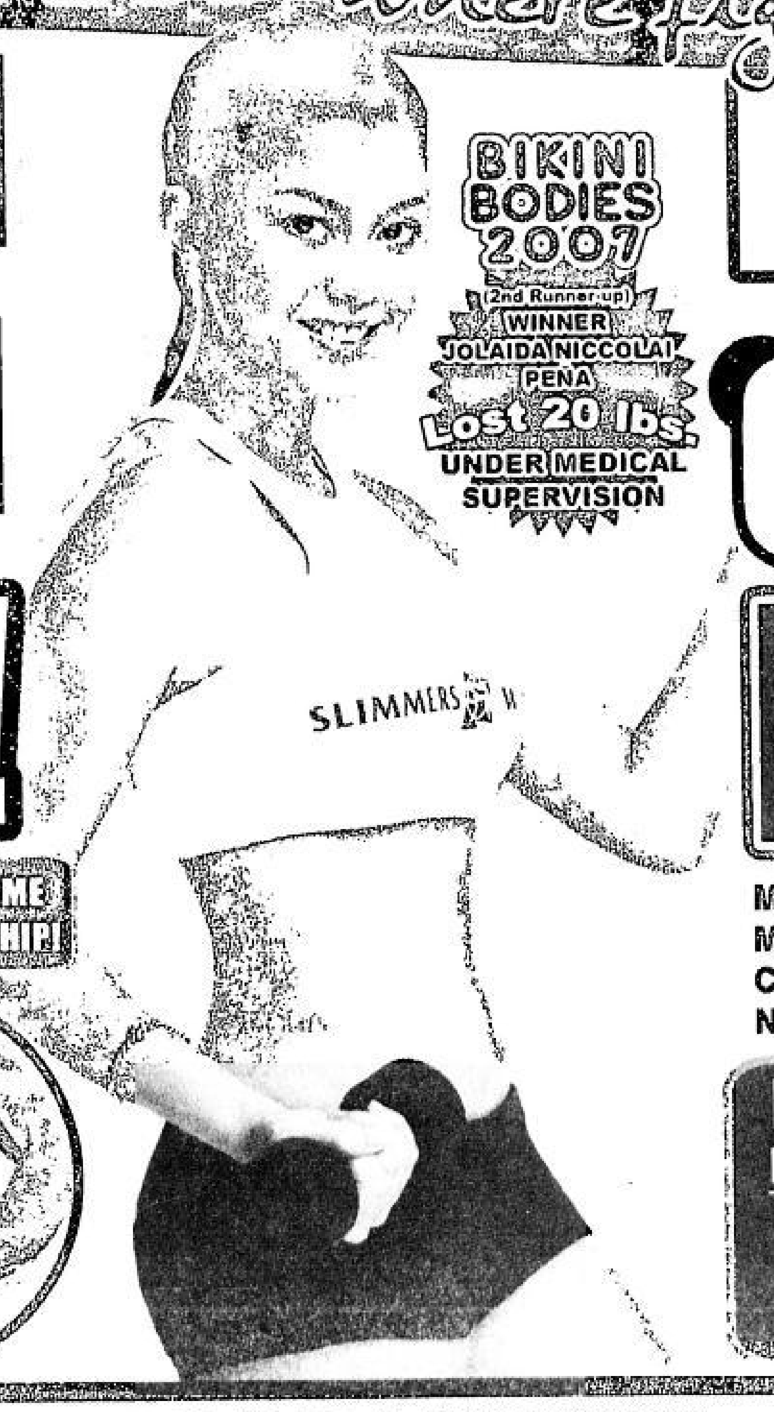

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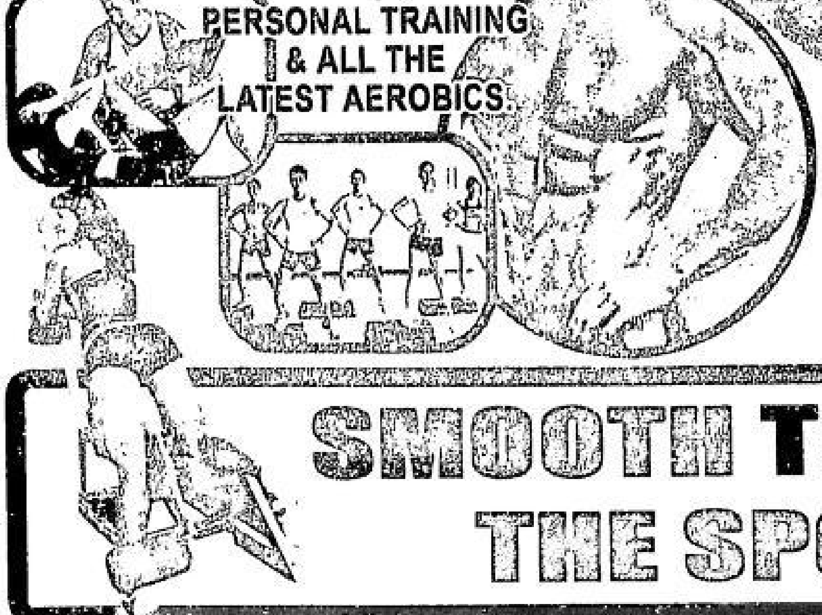

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Boracay stakeholders want MMDA's Bayani as consultant

ILOILO CITY—AMID GROWING concerns over unregulated development and pollution threats to the world-renowned Boracay resort, officials and business owners on the island plan to tap Metropolitan Manila a Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando as development consultant for the island.

Malay (Aklan) Mayor Ciceron Cawaling and officials of the Boracay Foundation Inc. met with Fernando on Friday to discuss the possibility of his helping in the development of the island-resort, according to BFI president Nenette Graf.

The BFI is a group of owners of resorts, restaurants and other businesses on the island.

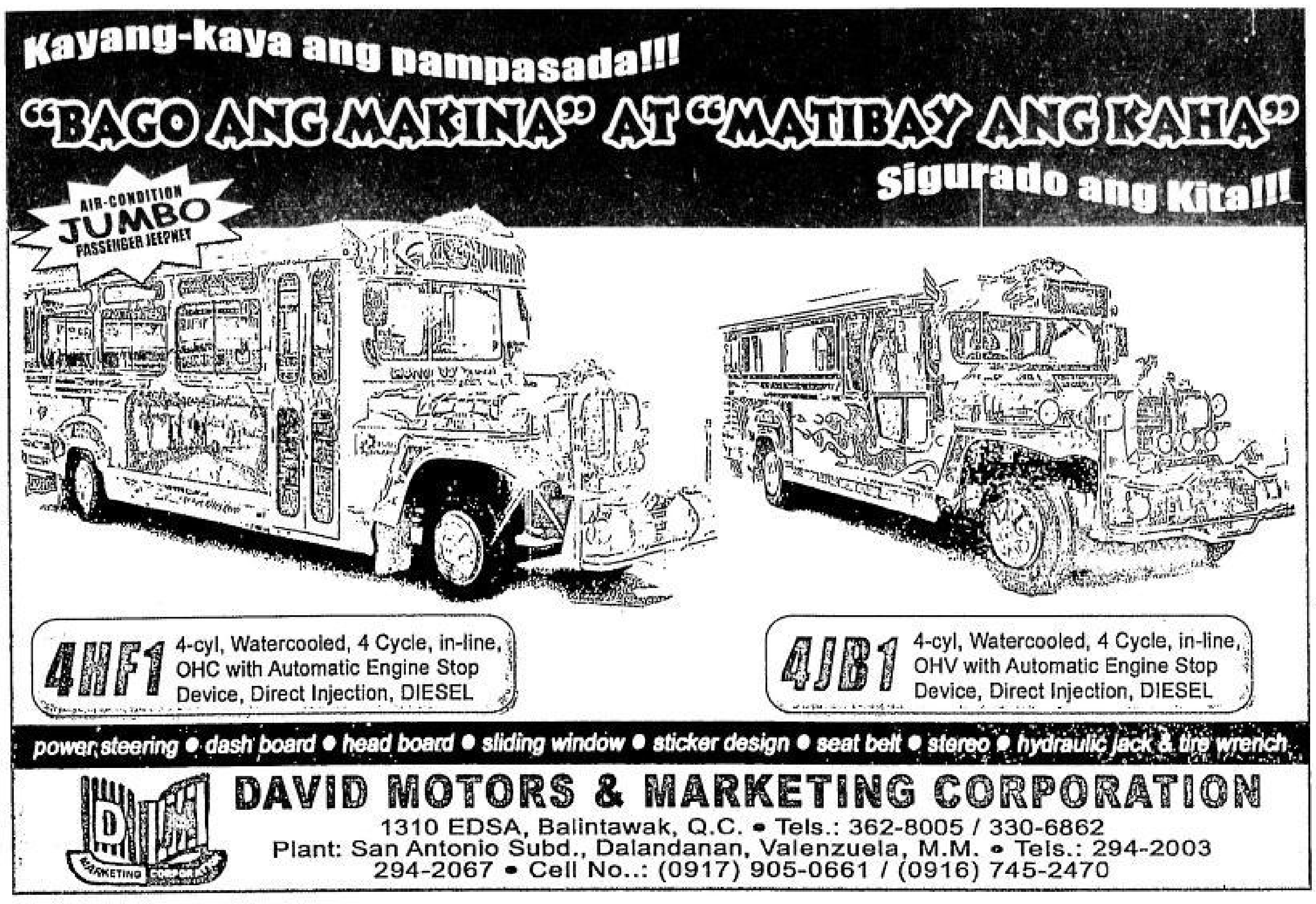
Graf said the local government of Malay town, where Boracay is located, and the BFI had asked Fernando to be a consultant to the Malay Development Council.

She said Fernando was chosen because of his "credibility and track record" in enforcing regulations on development projects during his stint as three-term mayor of Marikina City and as current MMDA chair.

"We need somebody with the credibility to ensure the sustainable development of the island," Graf said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Graf said Fernando was "very open" to helping the island.

But they would still seek the permission of President Macapagal-Arroyo to allow Fernando to be a consultant to the island concurrently with his being MMDA chair. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*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Negros prelate, others condemn Estrada pardon

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—BISHOP Vicente Navarra of the Bacolod Diocese and a group of Negrenses condemned over the weekend what they called the "indecent manner" by which President Macapagal-Arroyo exercised her prerogative to grant a pardon to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"We oppose in the strongest possible terms Estrada's being granted clemency; he should be made to suffer the consequences of his criminal and immoral acts," said a statement issued by the group on Saturday.

The statement, called "No to Indecent Pardon," was signed by Navarra, Fr. Aniceto Buenafe Jr., director of the Social Action Center of the diocese, and 29 other persons from Negros Occidental's Catholic Church, local government and civil society groups.

The group said Estrada's pardon on Oct. 25, shortly after he was convicted of plunder and sentenced to life imprisonment, was the "biggest travesty of justice" committed by President Arroyo.

They said it was appalling the President hastily pardoned Estrada after six years of painstaking efforts at litigation by a team of state prosecutors, and the unanimous decision of three Sandiganbayan justices convicting him.

"The GMA pardon is not about giving justice to a former president of this country. It is about saving the neck of an incumbent president whose election is viewed as illegitimate by millions of Filipinos and whose administration is hounded by corruption scandals," the signatories said.

They said Estrada was clearly given special treatment by Ms Arroyo from the very start since he was detained at his own rest house in Tanay, Rizal, and did not experience being locked up in jail at all.

"As a former president occupying the highest office of the land, he was charged with the responsibility of upholding the law. In abuse of this public trust, he wielded the power and influence of his office to plunder the nation. For this reason alone, the burden of accountability is twice as heavy on him—he should have been detained in jail rather than pampered under house arrest."

Many ordinary Filipinos were in jail for lesser offenses and suffered for a much longer time than Estrada without their cases being resolved, they said.

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DOJ lawyers take crash course vs pyramid scams

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO GET COMPLAINTS ABOUT INVESTMENT scams to progress, the Department of Justice has held writing workshops for its prosecutors to give them the chance to focus on drafting the resolutions for the cases they had investigated.

Another such "write shop" is scheduled later this month for prosecutors to decrease the number of pending complaints before the DOJ dealing with pyramid schemes and the like.

"Their time was devoted to writing the resolutions of all cases where the preliminary investigation proceedings have been terminated and are therefore submitted for resolution," Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said in a recent interview.

Devanadera said she was aiming to resolve all of the 202 complaints involving business scams that are still before the DOJ.

Once a resolution is issued, the DOJ would either dismiss the complaint or file the appropriate charges before the courts.

Of the 202 complaints, 141 have been resolved by the DOJ since 2002, according to Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Leah Armamento.

Armamento said the prosecutors under a task force on investment scams are now fast-tracking the resolution of the complaints because they had been given support in terms of a budget, office and the equipment to undertake the write shop. She said the sheer number of cases have made it difficult for the prosecutors to dispose of all of them at once.

"The cases have long been submitted for decision, it's just a matter of writing the decision. There are just too many. It's just a matter of giving priority now," she said.

She also said that of the 141 cases already resolved, only one percent had been dismissed. The rest were filed or are set to be filed before the courts within the year. The charges include economic sabotage and violation of the Bouncing Check Law and Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

Among those already resolved are the complaints against Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. owner Rose Baladjay, as well as the officers and owners of Tibayan Group Investment Co. Inc. and Mateo Management Group Holdings, according to the prosecutor.

Pyramid schemes usually involve companies promising their clients high returns on their investments, the payment for which is sourced from new clients. Later, the companies fail to deliver payments due to the lack of new investors.

Armamento also said focus was being placed on investment scam complaints because of their numerous victims.

She also said the DOJ wanted the public to be better aware of such schemes to deprive them of their money. The same come-ons are still being used by the scammers, who promise big returns for a minimal investment.

"It's same style up to today. It's just the medium that is different. Nowadays, they use the Internet. It's still the cliche that if it's too good to be true, the investor should beware," she said.

Network loses bid to stop cable merger

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS JUNKED the bid of GMA Network Inc. to temporarily stop the merger of the Skycable, Home Cable and Pilipino Cable Corp., saying such an act should be left to the discretion of the National Telecommunications Commission.

The appellate court refused to overturn the NTC's order denying GMA's motion for a cease and desist order against the merger of the cable companies while its complaint before the NTC was pending.

In ruling against GMA, the appellate court said the NTC had the power to decide whether a cease and desist order was necessary.

"Thus, the petitioner cannot compel the public respondent to issue a cease and desist order as it is a discretionary act on the part of the latter to issue the same," the CA said in an Oct. 10 decision.

In its complaint filed in 2003, GMA asked the NTC to compel the cable companies to restore its clear broadcast signal and to free it from distortion in their cable systems.

The television network also asked that the NTC declare null and void the merger of Skycable and Home Cable under Beyond Cable, among other things. Skycable also owns majority of PCC, which operates Sun Cable.

Skycable is in turn controlled by the Lopez group which owns GMA's rival television network, ABS-CBN.

Later, GMA also sought a cease and desist order against the merger while the commission tackled its complaint.

In refusing to issue a cease and desist order, NTC had said such an act would be premature since it had not yet received evidence from the parties, and would thus be tantamount to resolving GMA's complaint.

GMA then elevated the case to the Court of Appeals.

But the appellate court refused to rule on GMA's contention that the consolidation of the cable companies was unlawful and unconstitutional. It said the NTC's regulatory power over broadcasting and cable television operations also extended to ownership and regulation, among other things.

Hence, the NTC was the better judge to tackle GMA's allegations of unlawful business combination and unjust business practices, it added.

"It is in the best position to judge matters relating to the broadcasting industry as it is presumed to have an unparalleled understanding of its market and commercial conditions. Moreover, it is the NTC that has the information, statistics and data peculiar to the television broadcasting industry," it said.

The appellate court also agreed with the cable companies that the issuance of a cease and desist order would be too soon since it would be tantamount to resolving the case without the hearings being completed.

Leila B. Salaverria

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 5, 2007
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 11:29-36
Gospel: Luke 14:12-14

Jesus addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary

God's gift and call are irrevocable, whether they are to Israel or to each/all of us called to baptism and conversion in Christ. We have known the mercy of God—how do we respond daily to God's goodness? Our God is vast, beyond description, and yet we know God in Jesus. And Jesus is a strange God. He exhorts us to care for the poor, the least, the outsider, the sick, the many who cannot survive in the world, and we are to treat them with dignity and graciousness as though we were inviting God to our tables—because we are. By the incarnation, what we do to one another, our God takes as done to himself. Are we delighted to be able to do for others what we would want to do for our God? Do we rejoice that this is the wisdom and knowledge, the mercy of God among us?

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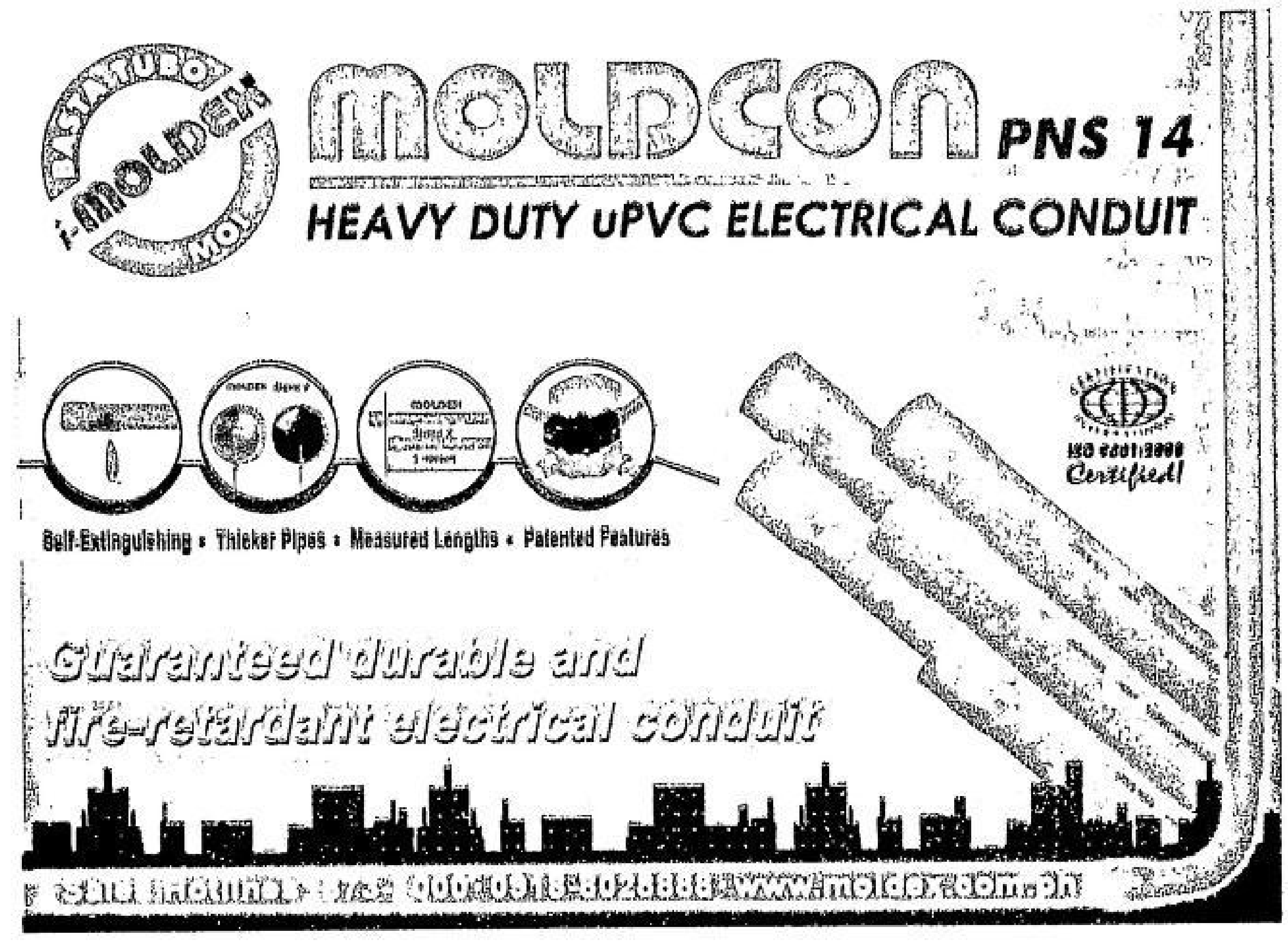
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Little outrage over pardon can be trouble for GMA

From page A1

This was the message a segment of the urban poor was flagging, that they were cynical over whether Estrada was convicted or acquitted by a court of justice.

It did not seem to matter to the poor that the rule of law was observed in the trial of Estrada, and yet they were not unaware that under the self-proclaimed propoor presidency of Estrada, they were poorer than they were before.

Nor is there evidence that their poverty has been slightly alleviated by the loudly proclaimed antipoverty programs of the Arroyo administration, designed by aloof and often arrogant technocrats at the National Economic and Development Authority who are template prototypes of the social insensitivity of their role model.

No filter-down effect

The poor cannot transfer their loyalty to the poverty alleviation programs of President Arroyo because these have done very little to lift them from their misery. They cannot identify with these programs and the claims of her economists that economic growth has been without interruption for the past years because the benefits of growth have not filtered down.

Working on official statistics, Dr. Mahar Mangahas, head of Social Weather Stations, has found that despite the steady rise of the gross national product, "family incomes have not been growing in step with the recent growth in GNP."

Indeed, "family incomes have recently been moving in the opposite direction," he points out. "Thus the recent GNP growth is not good news for people in general, no matter how loud are the voices in the government, in the business sector, or in the international development banks that proclaim that this is good news."

He writes that the new Family Income and Expenditures Survey of 2006 found that the average annual income per family was P144,000 in 2006, compared to P148,000 in 2003.

"That's a real decrease of 2.7 percent," he writes, "which is definitely bad news for the people in general." The survey referred to the average annual income per family, but for low-income families, it can only be suggested that the rate of decrease could have been bigger.

Political implications

This has implications for mass mobilization for political action. The consequence seems to be that those left out by the benefits cannot be used as storm troopers of people power movements, led by the middle class in concert with the military.

The last time the urban poor stormed Malacañang was on May 1, 2001, in a violent protest against the arrest of the freshly deposed Estrada by the middle class-driven Edsa II. They were not involved in Edsa II. They did not respond to several Edsa calls in 2005 over the Garci tapes, coup conspiracies and the two impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

The urban poor are no longer Estrada's legion to mobilize since he was co-opted by the pardon, but they have not been won over by the pardon. They do not share the intensity of the outrage of the middle class over the pardon. They are apathetic to the shortcuts in the rule of law and the unequal administration of justice, because they have been the victims of injustice all their lives.

Changes in the presidency since the overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos mean little to them and have not changed their lives for the better.

Crooks have come and gone, and the urban poor are cynical about any movement that calls for another Edsa over the Estrada pardon and the seemingly endless surge of corruption scandals of the Arroyo administration.

Disenchanted with protests

Disenchanted with the outcomes of street upheavals, the poor have learned from their frustrations and, therefore, have clung to the "magic" of a false charismatic call of an imagined emancipator.

For all Estrada's posturing as the man of the masses, the poor have not been slow to see through the negotiations over the pardon as no less than another farce perpetrated by the elite fixing things among themselves, between the ruling class and the counter-elite, camouflaged by the fraudulent label "national reconciliation."

Recent newspaper reports have noted that the outrage over the pardon is "increasingly growing in the cyberpage" but the reports also point out the indignation is spreading in e-mail exchanges, letters to online papers, blogs and chat rooms—in short, hi-tech media of mass communications mainly among the chattering middle class whose noise is sharper than its bite.

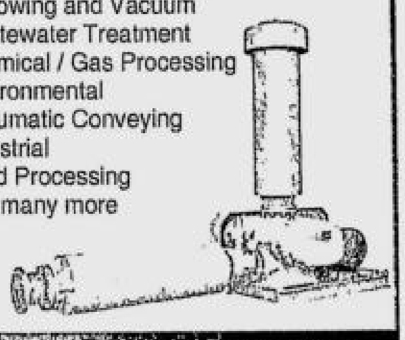
They cannot fill the streets to compose a critical mass. The urban poor have never been the mass component of people power since 1986.

Impeachment, coup plots

This is not good news for Ms Arroyo. The middle class without mass following are now translating their outrage to other nonelectoral means, including impeachment and coup plots by disgruntled military officers.

In the realignment of constituencies shaken by the pardon outrage and the recent corruption scandals, the President has been narrowing her base and losing allies in the business sector and in Congress.

The business sector is divided and is concerned over the President's capacity to consolidate the fiscal reforms that helped spur economic growth being set back by turmoil over governance issues. It is this dislocation of constituencies that can crush her regime.



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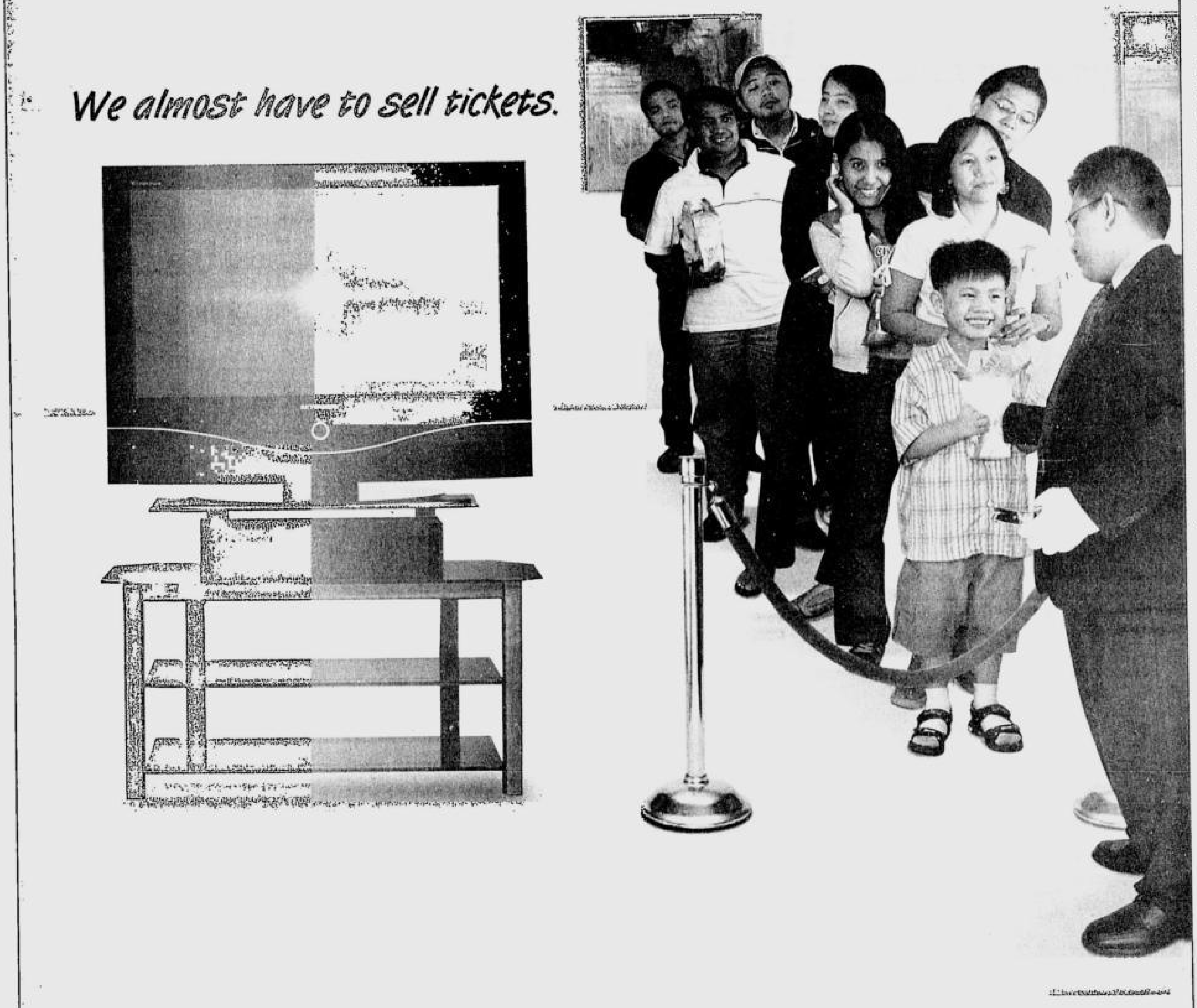
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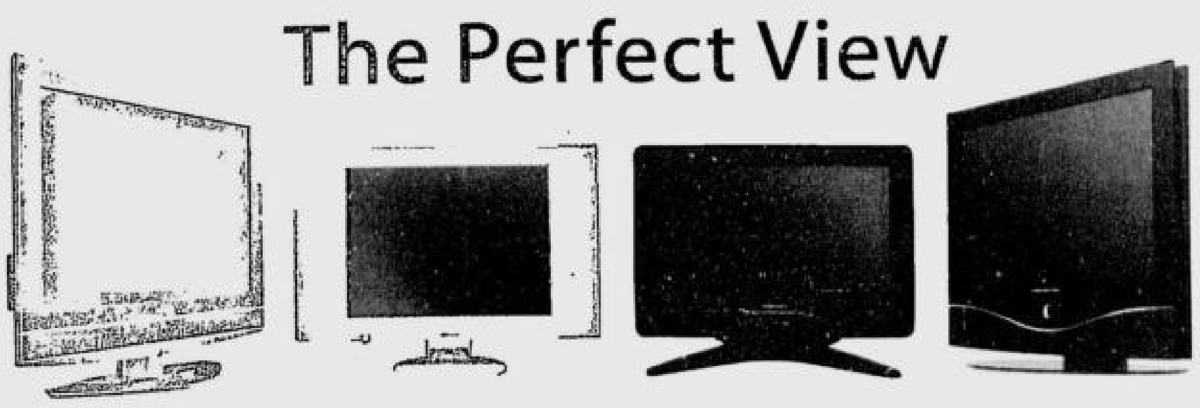

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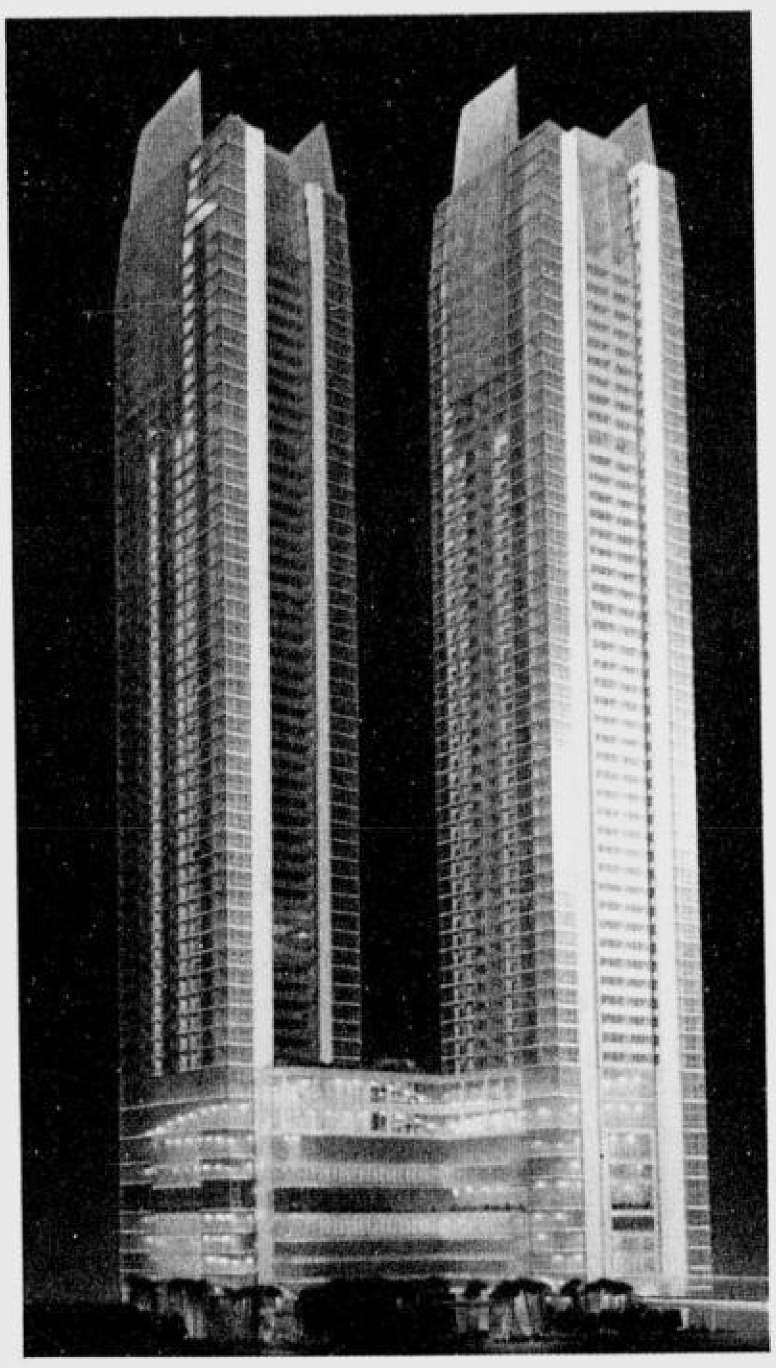

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Bangkok calling world media

HONOLULU—THE East-West Center (EWC) is gathering journalists from around the world for a three-day conference on current headlines and common concerns of media professionals.

EWC, a US government-funded education and research organization, has issued an open invitation to media professionals from around the world to attend the conference in Bangkok, Thailand, from Jan. 20 to 23, 2008.

"It will be a chance for journalists to network with hundreds of [fellow] journalists from around the world," said EWC media programs coordinator Susan Kreifels at a recent briefing here.

Current issues

"We will get to discuss common problems … I think we will learn a lot from each other," said Jerry Burris, EWC writer, editor and external affairs officer.

With the theme, "Changing Dynamic in the Asia Pacific: Power Politics, Economic Might and Media Challenges," the conference will feature top media professionals from Asia and the United States who will speak on current news events such as the Burma (Myanmar) military regime's crackdown on prodemocracy protesters, the campaign to denuclearize North Korea and the 2008 Beijing Olympics coverage.

RP journalist

Filipino journalist Sheila Coronel, a founder of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and now a professor at Columbia University Journalism School, will deliver the keynote address for the session on Asian media issues and lead a workshop on investigative journalism.

A day will be devoted to China, with speakers tackling the country's regional and global impact in terms of economy and politics and what to expect during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Interested parties may check registration details on EWC's website, www.eastwestcenter.org.

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Miriam opens bid for seat on int'l court

By Dona Pazzibugan

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO HAS opened her campaign for a seat in the International Court of Justice.

She addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Nov. 2, giving a speech on "Shared Natural Resources and Reservation to Treaties."

A statement issued by her Senate office yesterday said Santiago her address was also part of the celebration of International Law Commission (ILC) Week and served as her introduction to the international law community.

While in New York, Santiago is expected to meet the various UN ambassadors through receptions hosted by the Philippine Mission.

Panel's choice

Santiago was nominated for a seat in the ICJ on July 20. She was chosen by a panel composed of Supreme Court Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines national president Jose Vicente Salazar and University of Santo Tomas faculty of civil law Dean Alfredo Benipayo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced Santiago's nomination during the Asean Ministers meeting on July 30.

Last month, Santiago asked to be excused from her Senate duties for a year to campaign—from October 2007 to November 2008.

She requested to be marked on "official mission" during the times she will be away to campaign.

If elected, Santiago will serve in the ICJ beginning 2009. Her Senate term ends in 2010.

She will also be the first Asian woman judge to serve in the ICJ and the second woman overall, after Rosalyn Higgins from the United Kingdom who is the current ICJ president.

Majority vote

Five seats in the ICJ will be vacant by Feb. 5, 2009. The elections will be held at UN headquarters in New York in late 2008. A candidate will need to get a majority vote in both the General Assembly and the Security Council which will vote simultaneously but apart.

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It decides legal disputes between states and issues "advisory opinions" on legal questions referred to it by UN agencies.

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Cesar Bengzon served as an ICJ judge from 1967 to 1976.

Korean national hit by bus, dies

CALAMBA CITY—A KOREAN BUSINESSMAN died shortly after being hit by a speeding bus while crossing the national highway in Barangay Bagong Kalsada here on Friday night, police said Sunday.

Supt. Roland Bustos, city police chief, identified the fatality as Kwang Yoon Kho, 62, owner of a resort in Sta. Fe Subdivision in the barangay.

Bustos said police had launched a hunt for the bus driver identified as Edelber Monteagudo, 50, a resident of Majayjay, Laguna.

He said the Korean was crossing the highway at a curve at around 8 p.m. when he was hit by the Sta. Cruz-bound bus driven by Monteagudo.

Instead of stopping to help the victim, Bustos said the driver sped away and later abandoned the bus, owned by HM Bus Transit, on a road in Barangay Balete, Victoria town, some 30 kilometers from where the accident happened.

Bustos said bus company officials had promised to help bring the driver to the police. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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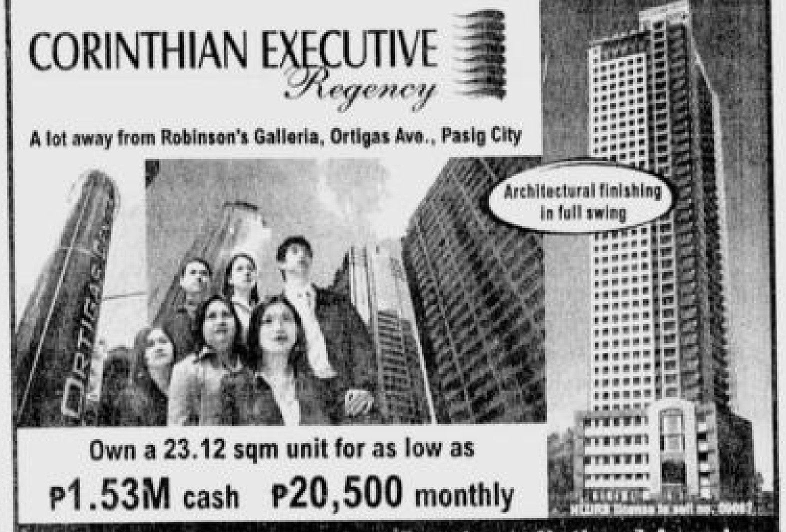

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He once vowed true democracy

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a coup eight years ago and has been the repeated target of assassination attempts for allying his Islamic nation with the United States in its war on terror, promised to bring true democracy to Pakistan.

But on Saturday, days before the Supreme Court was to rule on his future as the country's top elected leader, he declared a state of emergency.

Musharraf's decision to end Pakistan's support for the hard-line Taliban regime in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States won him new friends in the West—and enemies at home.

His efforts toward peace with the country's historic rival, India, welcomed by citizens on both sides of the subcontinent, also angered hard-liners.

Musharraf, 64, has survived several attempts on his life, including two huge bombings in December 2003.

Musharraf was born on Aug. 11, 1943, in New Delhi, India, the middle son of a diplomat. His family migrated by train during independence from Britain in 1947, when predominantly Hindu India and Islamic Pakistan formally divided.

Joining the army in 1964, he quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to army chief under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 1998.

Their relationship soured the following year after Musharraf organized a Pakistani push into the Indian-held part of Kashmir, bringing the two nuclear-armed countries to the brink of war.

When Sharif tried to oust him, allegedly obstructing Musharraf's plane from landing in Pakistan after a trip abroad, the army chief seized power in a bloodless coup. He promised the nation he would bring true democracy to Pakistan—a move welcomed by many Pakistanis, who were increasingly frustrated by the corrupt civilian government.

His takeover angered the international community, but his response to the Sept. 11 attacks won back friends.

He agreed to support the US war on terror, a decision that enraged Islamic hardliners, but brought billions of aid dollars to his near-bankrupt country.

In December 2001, Musharraf faced a new crisis when Islamic militants launched a deadly attack on the Indian Parliament. International diplomacy helped ease tensions.

Musharraf held elections in 2002, but only after amending the constitution to give himself sweeping powers to sack the prime minister and Parliament.

He reneged on a promise to quit his army post by the end of 2004 and rule as a civilian president. He claimed the country needed stability as it confronted al-Qaida terrorists on home soil. *AP*

State restrictions

SOME OF THE RESTRICTIONS AND fundamental rights that have been suspended in Pakistan by the state of emergency declared by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf:

- Article 9 of Pakistan's constitution safeguarding life and liberty has been suspended. Several opposition lawmakers and activists have been detained.
- People can be arrested without being informed of their offense and denied access to lawyers under emergency powers.
- The right to free movement has been suspended.
- Constitutional protection of property rights are also suspended.
- Citizens have been barred from assembling in public. Political parties will therefore be unable to address rallies ahead of planned new year parliamentary elections.
- A suspension of the right to free speech will likely check the country's vocal opposition groups.
- Provisions giving equal rights to all citizens before law and equal legal protection have been suspended. *AP*

A setback to

WORLD LEADERS YESTERDAY CALLED for a swift return to a constitutional government in Pakistan and said military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf's declaration of a state of emergency was a setback for democracy.

The United States, which has cast Musharraf as a key ally in its global fight against terrorism, said it was deeply disturbed by the moves.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking in Jerusalem at the start of two days of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, said she has not spoken to Musharraf since he imposed the state of emergency.

"I just want to repeat that the United States does not support, and indicated to the Pakistani leadership prior to this action that it would not support, extraconstitutional means," she said.

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From page A1

in the media and from another key opposition p ty leader, Benazir Bhutto, that Musharraf had in fact imposed martial law—direct rule by the army—without announcing it. He said this was not the case as the prime minister and parliament we still in place.

"There is no martial law in the country. Only state of emergency has been declared," he said. "The civilian government will continue to function."

In Islamabad, phone service that had been cut when the state of emergency was declared on Saturday evening appeared to have been restored by Sunday morning. But transmissions by TV news networks remained off the air in major cities other than state-controlled Pakistan TV.

Troops ring Supreme Court

Scores of paramilitary troops at barbed wire barricades blocked access to the Supreme Court and parliament. Otherwise the streets of the capital appeared calm.

The US-allied leader declared the emergency despite calls from Washington and other Western allies not to take authoritarian measures. Washington expressed deep concern and called for him to restore democracy, but said it would not affect US military support of Pakistan.

Bhutto, a former prime minister who had traveled abroad in the wake of an Oct. 18 suicide at tack that narrowly missed her but killed 145 others, immediately flew back to the southern city of Karachi, and declared the emergency was the "blackest day" in Pakistan's history.

Her view that martial law was now in pl was shared by many media commentators, particularly as Musharraf declared the emergency his capacity as chief of army staff. The constitution says the president—not the army chief—should make such a declaration, and only if the country's security is threatened by war, external aggression or internal disturbance.

In a televised address, Musharraf, look

2 more impeach

FORCES SEEKING TO UNSEAT PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo have lined up two more impeachment complaints against her.

The twin cases being readied by about 10 cause-oriented and civil society groups will confront the question of whether Ms Arroyo—by virtue of the "weak" complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido—is really immune from new impeachment cases because of a rule barring the filing of more than one case against an official within one year.

Neri Colmenares, a member of the legal team preparing the new cases, said the groups' stra

GMA, De Venecia a

From page A1

fireworks, there will be none—not even *watusi*."

To further prove that the ruffled ties within Lakas had been mended, the Palace released a photo of the group after their Saturday night meeting at Malacañang—with Ms Arroyo, Ramos, De Venecia and the other officials beaming and flashing Ramos' signature thumbs-up sign.

"Let this day douse all rumor and speculation that this government is divided," Ms Arroyo said. "It is strong and focused on the business of the people."

The Lakas leaders also apparently consolidated their ranks to ensure the defeat of any new attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo.

The Lakas caucus was attended by about dozen key members, including Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, Defensor, Nograles, Senior Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines head Ramon Guico, League of Cities president Jerry Treñas and League of Provinces president Loreto Ocampos.

Ermita acknowledged that Ms Arroyo and De Venecia had patched up their differences.

Relations between the two soured after the Speaker's son, businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III claimed that Ms Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, were involved in the allegedly anomalous awarding of the now scrapped $329-million National Broadband Network project with China's ZTE Corp.

"Well, something like that," Ermita said in a phone interview when asked whether the two leaders had kissed and made up.

And this was done "for the sake of the country."

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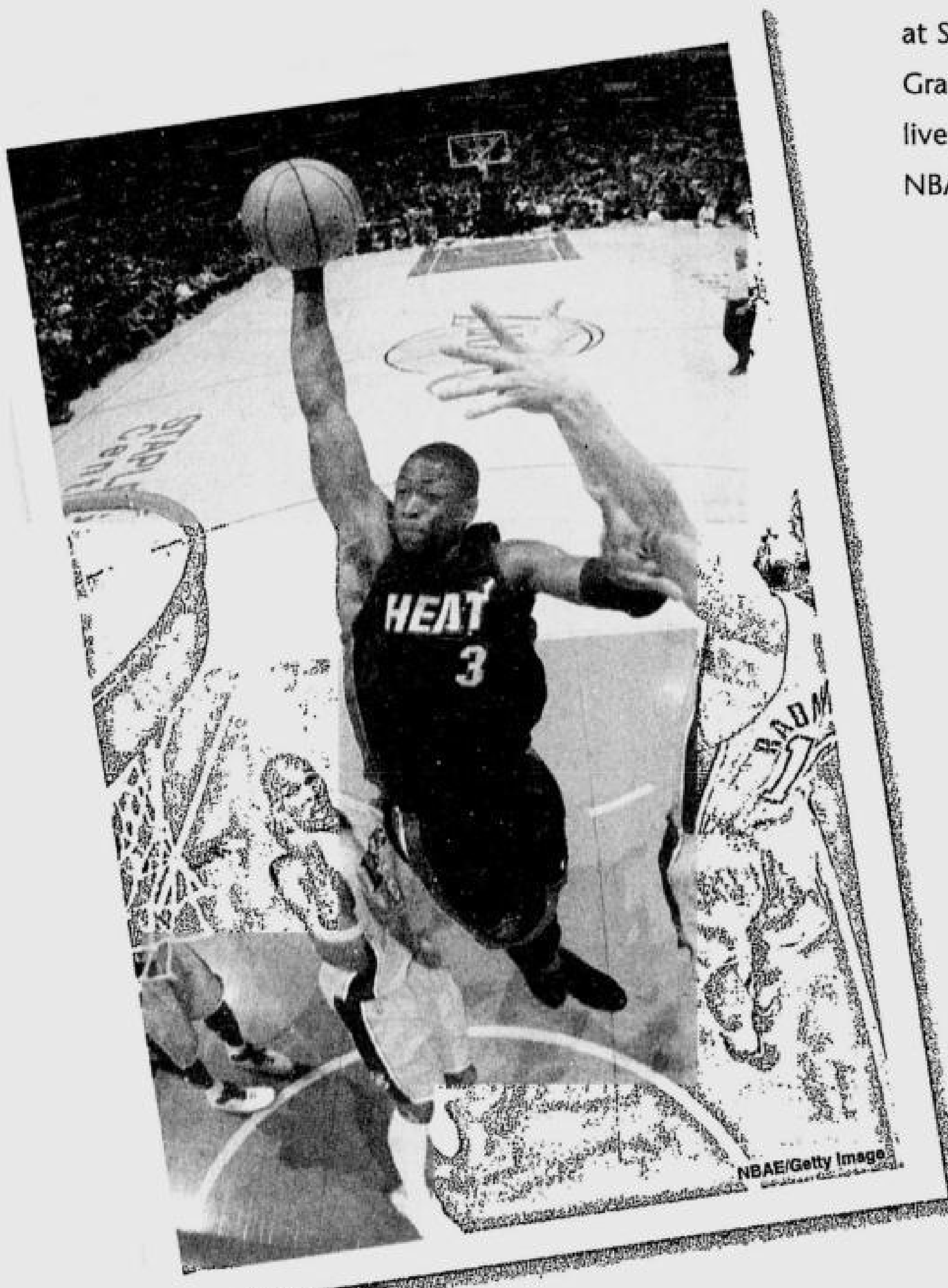

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democracy, say world leaders

Pakistan and the best interest of kistani people for there to be a return to the constitutional for there to be affirmation that ns will be held for a new Parliashe said.

attle

harraf's move was seen as a battle the Bush administration, which ed to halt any move toward auriarism in Pakistan.

sh officials called the state of ncy a major setback for Pakistani racy.

recognize the threat to peace and y faced by the country, but its futs on harnessing the power of racy and the rule of law to the goals of stability, developnd countering terrorism," British Secretary David Miliband said in nent.

Asia's two largest countries, however, reacted with restraint. China said it was confident Pakistan could solve its own problems, while longtime rival India tempered its response to keep tensions low, saying it regretted Pakistan's "difficult times."

Japan, which recently halted a six-year antiterrorism mission in the Indian Ocean, said Musharraf's actions hindered the establishment of democracy.

"Japan has constantly supported Pakistan's war on terror and its efforts to establish democracy. Japan strongly hopes that Pakistan will soon restore normalcy and return to the process of democratization," the Foreign Ministry said.

India conciliatory

India issued a conciliatory response, although it has perhaps the most at stake if Pakistan descends into chaos. Pakistan and India have fought three wars against one another and still have a tense relationship, though relations have improved in recent years.

"We regret the difficult times that Pakistan is passing through," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna said. "We trust that conditions of normalcy will soon return permitting Pakistan's transition to stability and democracy to continue."

China, one of Pakistan's closest allies and a major source of investment, trade and armaments, signaled its preference for behind-the-scenes diplomacy.

"We believe the Pakistani government and people have the ability to solve its own problem," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said in a statement.

But he added, "We hope Pakistan maintains stability and development."

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tion leaders ...

somber and composed, said Pakistan was at a "dangerous" juncture, its government threatened by Islamic extremists.

"The extremism has even spread to Islamabad, and the extremists are taking the writ of the government in their own hands, and even worse, they are imposing their obsolete ideas on moderates," Musharraf said, wearing a black button-down tunic rather than his military fatigues.

He also blamed the Supreme Court for punishing state officials and postponing the announcement of his recent election win, saying it had "semi-paralyzed" government. The court was to rule soon on whether to validate the result of the vote that opponents say was unconstitutional because he contested the vote while army chief.

Musharraf on Saturday replaced the chief justice, Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry, who had emerged as the main check on the president.

Stop downslide

"Now the time for the action has come. I have carefully examined the situation to see how to stop this downslide. We have to create harmony among judiciary, legislative and executive. This is how we would tackle the issue of terrorism in a better way," Musharraf said.

He said there would be no change in the government and its top offices, and parliament—set to dissolve by Nov. 15—would complete its term. He did not say when parliamentary elections—due by January—would be held.

Only five of the Supreme Court's 17 judges agreed to take the oath of office under the provisional constitutional order imposed by Musharraf as the existing constitution, passed in 1973, went into abeyance, newspapers reported. In all, only 33 of 87 senior judges across Pakistan did so, the reports said.

Private Geo TV reported the arrest of the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Aitzaz Ahsan—a lawyer for Chaudhry in the case that led to his reinstatement in July after Musharraf tried to sack him. Another opposition party leader, Imran Khan, was put under house arrest Saturday. *AP, Reuters*

ment complaints

gy involved two approaches—file a case supplementing Pulido's complaint and file an entirely new complaint.

The supplemental complaint, expected to be filed today, will be based on the $329-million National Broadband Network scandal and the alleged distribution of money to congressmen in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Colmenares said the second complaint would deal with human rights violations and alleged electoral fraud during the 2004 presidential election. *Christian V. Esguerra*

ffirm Lakas unity

Ermita said.

Ermita said reports that De Venecia would be ousted as Speaker were "just speculation" and that De Venecia would switch sides were just newspaper accounts.

Asked whether the meeting discussed the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, Ermita said the subject was taken up.

But he said Ms Arroyo merely listened as House leaders explained why opposition threats to file an amended or a second impeachment case against her would not prosper.

Ermita said the Constitution was very clear that no new impeachment case could be filed against the President while another impeachment case was pending against her.

He said House leaders explained that the impeachment case that lawyer Roel Pulido filed last month—which was endorsed by Rep. Edgar San Luis—was already deemed to have been formally initiated, barring the filing of another complaint.

"How they will handle it, it's up to them," Ermita said when asked how Ms Arroyo's allies in the House would handle the matter.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the committee on appropriations, said party leaders agreed to defuse "all this wild talk about Malacañang moving to oust the Speaker."

"The Speaker is safe," Gonzales said.

Defensor said party leaders didn't tackle the Senate testimony of De Venecia's son against the First Couple in connection with the NBN project.

"I think there was a clear understanding that those things belonged to the past," he said. "Let bygones be bygones." *With a report from Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Scandalous art

EDITORIAL

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT THE REPUTATION OF the once-proud National Press Club could not go any lower, here comes news—and vivid visual evidence—of more unethical conduct. After commissioning a new mural on "press freedom" from the Neo-Angono Artists Collective, the NPC censored the finished work by replacing or fudging what one of its directors called "leftist marks."

Should the rest of the country care? A discredited organization which has long ceased to represent the country's mass of working journalists; a new painting on an old theme, worth less than a million pesos; a debate on an almost philosophical level: preserving the integrity of art versus meeting a certain standard of neutrality. This is, at first glance, far from a gut issue.

But like any work of art worth its name, this "bastardization" of the mural (as the artists themselves put it) requires a second look, repays a closer study. The subject is press freedom, but the issue is journalistic responsibility.

In the first place, the changes to the mural effectively undermine the work itself. The original painting was a meditation on press freedom today—that is to say, the present time of unexplained disappearances and international condemnation. It is precisely this context that was taken out from the mural, like inconvenient details airbrushed out of old communist portraits.

Thus: The newspaper with the headline "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted," with pictures of the abductee, Jonas Burgos, and his mother, was changed to a more generic version. The headline now reads: "Press Freedom Fight is On," and the pictures were distorted to remove any likenesses to the victim or his mother.

But in the exercise of press freedom **today**, under the Arroyo administration, the Burgos abduction and its coverage are in fact a defining moment. Similarly, the statement of the International Federation of Journalists bewailing the effect of the Human Security Act on press freedom was painted over, and replaced by what the artists called a "hideous bird-monster in a cage." The very topicality of the work is denied. We can guess why: to make the mural less inconvenient to the guest of honor who unveiled it on Oct. 26.

Secondly, the changes to the mural gloss over the largely political provenance of press freedom in the Philippines. NPC president Roy Mabasa told the INQUIRER: "We don't want to be politicized; they [the artists] went overboard. We don't want to be associated with the Left or Right. The club is apolitical; it can stand on its own." This is insipid thinking, at best; insidious rhetoric, at worst.

Set aside the damning detail that the NPC leadership had three weeks to review the mural but ordered the changes made overnight, only on the eve of the unveiling; or that one director said he followed the progress of the painting "since Day 1." Only consider the history of the free press in the Philippines. Can any journalist honestly say that press freedom in the country is "apolitical"? Nonpartisan, yes, often enough, but never apolitical, precisely because the freedom to write the truth was won and lost and won again in political struggle. That is why Andres Bonifacio is there; he wrote for Kalayaan. That is why INQUIRER columnist Juan Mercado is there; he went to jail when martial law was declared. To deny these and similar "details" is to render press freedom vulnerable to another assault.

The Angono artists could only be said to have gone "overboard" if the sensibilities of non-journalists—today's ruling politicians, led by the NPC's guest of honor—were taken into account.

This is where the responsibility of journalists becomes relevant. The journalist has the duty to "tell it as it is"—a duty recognized by the Constitution in granting the press certain rights and privileges, a duty that cannot be fulfilled if the press is not independent of the powers-that-be, including Presidents who come as guests of honor.

We recognize that the integrity of a work of art must be respected; we believe that the press cannot be neutral in the face of politically motivated threats to its very existence. But above all, we affirm that the members of the press have a responsibility to act independently—not throw in the muralist's trowel when the guest of honor comes a-calling.

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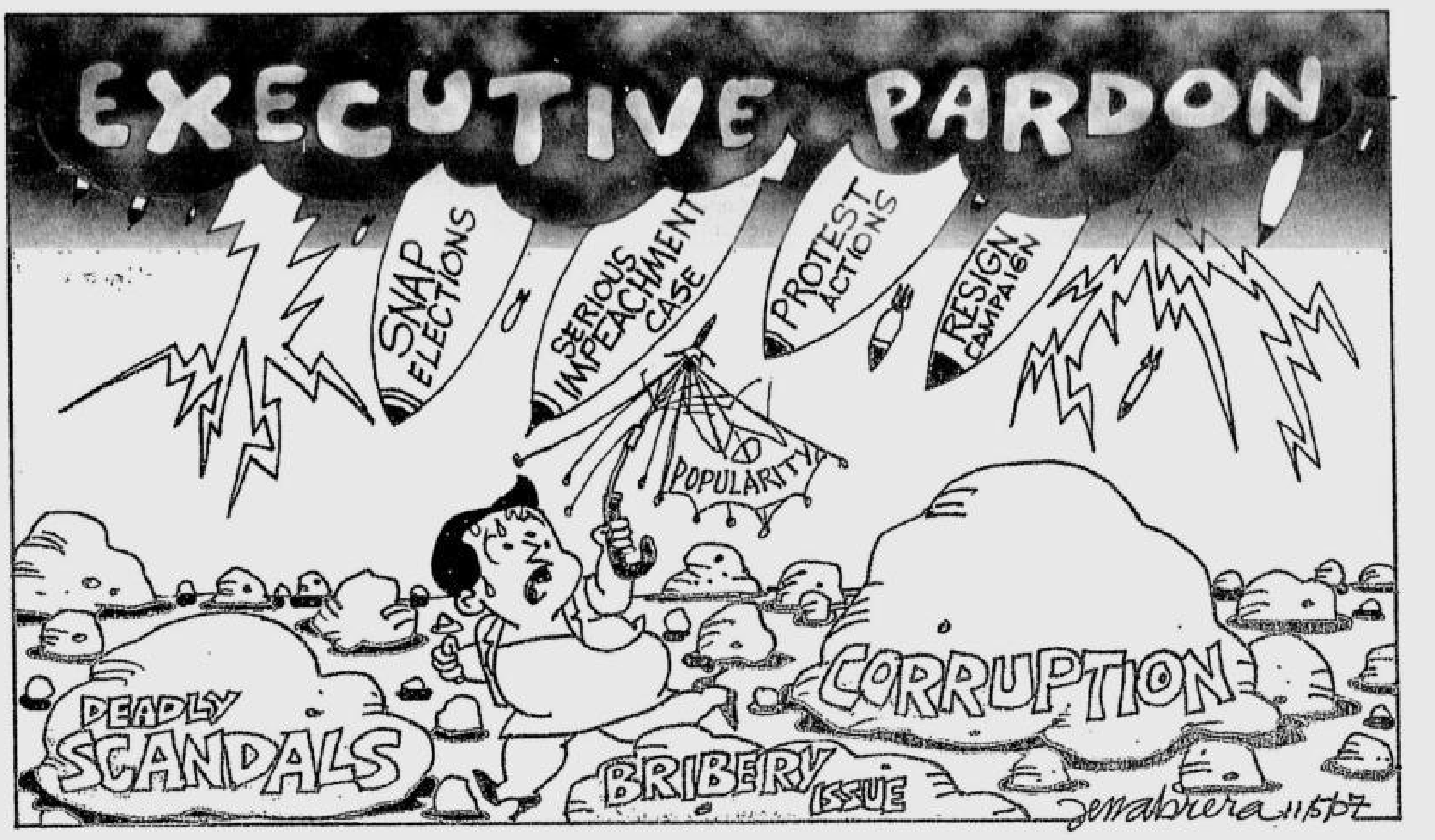

Old NPC mural 'stolen'; new one censored

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT A MURAL ON PRESS freedom commissioned by the officers of the National Press Club has itself been censored by an official of the NPC itself, at the instigation of the government? The mural is supposed to depict press freedom; instead it illustrated very clearly how the press (or the National Press Club which is supposed to be an association of journalists) is under the thumb of the government and how certain officials of the NPC succumbed too easily or are willing accomplices to censorship.

How did this come about? Let us start from the beginning: It started when some fixers in the Bureau of Customs succeeded in becoming regular members of the NPC, whom the more responsible members of the press derisively call "hao shiao" (pronounced "how syaw")—pseudo-journalists or pretenders. But as members they are technically qualified to run for positions in the club, which they did. They have since managed to assume control of the NPC through the backdoor.

During the regular NPC elections, while the legitimate members held their polls on the fourth floor of the club, the "hao shiaos" held theirs in the parking lot. They lost but then went to court and asked for new elections, which the court granted.

Those who were elected in the regular polls boycotted the new election, claiming that it was irregular and illegal. So the legitimate members lost by default via court order. The "hao shiaos" took over.

The opposing party questioned the "irregular" proclamation in the court, but the court is sitting on the case even though the two-year term of the present officers is about to expire.

As one of its very first acts, the new officers sold the valuable mural in the NPC dining hall by National Artist Vicente Manansala to an unknown buyer for P10 million without consulting the general membership. There was an uproar of protest. The NPC board claims it got the approval of the general membership in a convention. But most of the members claim it was a sham convention as there was no quorum, which was probably the general intent because no notices were sent to the members who would have disapproved of the sale of its most prized possession.

Meanwhile, the Government Service Insurance System, which had foreclosed the mortgage and now owns and has title to the NPC property, sued the NPC board, the agent (Heritage Arts) and the unknown buyer, claiming that it owns the Manansala mural. It said the mural, which was painted on the wall of the dining hall, is part of the building it owns but was sold by the NPC—which was occupying and using the building for free—without permission of the owner, GSIS. It sued the NPC board for qualified theft. Again, somebody managed to have the court sit on this case.

Trying to evade the issues and the growing uproar against the controversial sale, the NPC board decided to commission the Neo-Angono Artists Collective to paint a new mural, perhaps thinking that it would quiet the demand from the members for the return of the Manansala mural. Like the original mural, the new one has "press freedom" as its theme. But unlike the Manansala mural which symbolically showed the press in the clutches of vested interests, the Angono mural showed a downtown area with the NPC building at the center and various people reading newspapers.

The NPC officers invited President Macapagal-Arroyo to unveil the mural. So we have two sets of officials (GMA and the NPC board), whose legitimacy is in question, playing footsies. The new mural was placed not in the dining hall where the original was, but in the fourth floor where necrological rites are held for dead NPC members. Before the unveiling, the Presidential Security Group inspected the mural and noted certain "leftist marks."

Thereupon the NPC president, Roy Mabasa, on his own, had an artist—whom he refused to name—retouch the mural without consulting the original artists. These artists protested the censorship.

The alterations, according to the INQUIRER report (I have not seen the original and censored versions) were these:

"The headline of the newspaper that Jose Rizal is holding, 'Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted,' was replaced with 'Press Freedom Fight is On,' and the pictures of Edita Burgos and her missing activist son were defaced.

"The 'Alibata K' tattoo on Andres Bonifacio's left arm was replaced with a red heart pierced by an arrow.

"The hair of [Inquirer] columnist Randy David was lengthened.

"The name of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines was erased from the banner of demonstrators.

"A beard and a mustache were painted on the face of the man selling quail and balut eggs and the change of the hair from white to black."

The artists said they were shocked by the alterations when they went to the NPC to look at their mural. They may file a case against the NPC with the Intellectual Property Office.

"Aren't these alterations a clear violation of the rights of authors/artists protected by the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines?" they asked.

The NPC, like the GMA administration, is getting deeper into controversies as it struggles to get out of original mistakes. Why not just repent for its original sin and return the original Manansala mural to its rightful place? The membership did not ask for a new mural.

And the courts should not sit on the pending cases against the NPC board. Shouldn't the Supreme Court order the lower courts to make the wheels of justice move faster?

Thank God

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S A STUDY IN CONTRAST.

On one hand there's the letter of John Cortez III that appeared on our Letters section last Friday. I share his sentiments completely and said as much in a column a couple of weeks ago:

"Are the bishops of Mindanao living in the Philippines or in some place outside earth? I am aghast at their recent claim that there is no solid ground yet to question the moral values and integrity of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts, and that the call to resign is premature ... It seems that ordinary people are more rooted in their social life than the bishops are. I wouldn't wonder why though. Bishops live in comfortable (if not air-conditioned) rooms ... (and have a) lifestyle flavored with donations from government patrons....

"I remember looking up to bishops and priests as representatives of God. I think many of the faithful believe similarly. Thus when bishops fail to act as such, we get confused and disheartened and sometimes we even question our faith."

At the same time this letter appeared, our front page carried the last installment of our three-part series on the reforms the Supreme Court has been waging since Reynato Puno took over. That series began with Leila Salaverria's article, "Judiciary flexes muscles on extrajudicial killings," and Fernando del Mundo's sidebar, "Chief Justice Puno: An unlikely revolutionary."

Unlike the Mindanao bishops, headed by ex-CBCP head Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Puno is a self-confessed "sinner." He readily admits to once being a lawyer whose job in the solicitor-general's office was to defend martial law. The experience, however, rather than numbing his brain and turning his heart to stone, opened his eyes and lit the fire in his belly. He resolved to atone for it by making sure the injustices he saw during that time were never repeated again. He vowed to make sure the dictatorship would never sprout in this country again.

Some people make vows and break them almost as soon as they've made them; others make vows and dedicate their lives to them. GMA belongs to the first, Puno to the second. Since he became Chief Justice, Puno has moved to head off dictatorship, which he fears this regime is dangerously heading toward. He has specifically moved to put a stop to the "culture of impunity" which has spawned a slaughter of dissidents on a scale unheard of since martial law. Not least by wielding the writ of amparo, a power implicitly vested in the Supreme Court by the Constitution, which orders the military and police to open their premises to inspection and prove they are not involved in an abduction, torture, or killing/forced disappearance when they are accused of it instead of merely denying it.

I did say in the column I wrote on the Mindanao bishops that it was behavior of the kind they exhibited that would make the faithful faithless, that would make the flock decide to leave the shepherd and look after themselves. Thankfully, not all the clergy today belongs to that mold. Thankfully, Angel Lagdameo, the current CBCP head, like Puno, has chosen to make amends, if for sins he himself did not commit, and gone on to damn the damnable and upraise the upright. But it will be a long time before the Church can regain the standing it had not too long ago when it was looked up to as the voice of heaven and earth, the voice of Grace and (Cardinal) Sin.

Thank God there is the Supreme Court. And I for one want to use this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation for what it has done during the watch in particular of its last two Chief Justices. I confess I never thought the judiciary, long reputed to be the bastion of everything other than justice—it was better known as the redoubt of the doubtful—would end up being the conscience of this community. I applaud in particular what Puno is doing to stop the killings. Indeed, more than to stop the killings to rouse a benumbed nation to look upon this abomination with Biblical wrath. He cannot imagine the comfort he brings to the afflicted, like Edita Burgos. At a time when the various institutions of society are being conscripted into silence, or as in some sectors of the Church, into endorsing lie and subterfuge, theft and murder, the days and works of the devil, the Supreme Court has become a steady light amid the fog to a floundering ship.

It's enough to make you believe in God. Or that he/she moves in mysterious ways.

It's also enough to make you realize that "moral" and "spiritual" are not religious concepts, they are secular ones. They are not essential to booking a passage to heaven, they are essential to justifying your place on earth. You can be moral or spiritual without being religious or pious, and you can be religious and pious without being moral or spiritual. The Japanese and Koreans are not especially religious or pious, but they are especially moral and spiritual compared to us. Certainly, the Japanese and Korean officials are not Christians, but they are far more Christian than our churchgoing ones. At least they are far more Christian in the sense of possessing Christian charity: They spare their families and their nation shame and embarrassment by resigning when they are accused of corruption. Ours do not mind dragging the world to the muck they are mired in.

Karl Marx was reported to have said when regaled with the spectacle of the way his ideas had been turned into perverse doctrine by his followers who called themselves Marxists: "I am not a Marxist!" Jesus Christ might very well say given the way his teachings have been turned into self-serving defense of iniquity by the Mindanao bishops: "I am not a Christian!"

But then he might also say in light of the Chief Justice: "Not all Puno have bad roots."

Debate over Jpepa

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

FOR SOME TIME NOW THE DRAFT OF THE Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement has been hanging fire in the Senate where it has been submitted by the President for concurrence. There seems to be a sharp division between the government sponsoring the treaty and its high-powered critics.

The debate is along both economic and constitutional lines and its resolution can have a very significant impact on the life of the nation. I shall limit comments to the constitutional issues which have been drawn along nationalistic lines.

It is well known that our Constitution is heavily loaded with nationalistic provisions which reserve certain areas of the economy for Filipino citizens and Filipino corporations. Critics, however, see these provisions as threatened by the "national treatment" provisions in the treaty which are seen as obliging the Philippines to treat Japanese nationals as if they were Philippine nationals. For their part, supporters of the treaty point to "reservations" which exclude from "national treatment" areas protected by the Constitution against foreign incursions.

I have gone over some of the exchanges from both sides of the debate and what I see is that definitely both sides want to protect the Constitution. But the two sides seem to differ in their understanding of the structure of the treaty. The critics seem to have looked for the "reservations" in Annex 7 of the treaty and found them missing, whereas the supporters of the treaty say that the reservations are found in Annex 6!

The treaty, together with annexes and matrices, form 993 single-spaced pages. I myself have attempted to wade through these, with the aid of All Souls' and All Saints'! I did find some of the desired reservations in Annex 6 but, since I did not go through it thoroughly, I did not see all the desired and needed reservations. (I shall take this up in more detail in my next column.)

I guess what I am saying is that there is need for the Senate and its staff to comb through the entire document to see whether indeed the needed reservations are there, whether in Annex 6 or elsewhere. It may also be necessary for the sponsors to prepare a clear matrix, clearer than what is in the official document, showing how each pertinent constitutional provision is safeguarded by a corresponding provision in the treaty. Such simplification, or over-simplification, if you wish, may be needed in order to help the senators analyze the document while busy with proliferating legislative investigations.

Saving the Constitution from dilution, however, is not just a matter of textual purification of a treaty. This is because the nationalistic provisions of the Constitution are not all of the same kind. Some of them are almost mathematical in their precision; e.g., the provisions requiring 60 percent or 70 percent or 100 percent capitalization. But even these can present some problems of interpretation.

The more difficult provisions, however, are the non-self-executing ones. These may be found in policy guidelines in Article II of the Constitution (General Provisions) and in Article XII (National Economy). These provisions deal with policy issues and can give rise to cases where the Court, in the language of Justice Florentino P. Feliciano, may be asked to wade "into the uncharted ocean of social and economic policy making." When it comes to cases of this nature the Court is forced to limit itself to determining "whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction," an admittedly narrower area of combat.

Since the birth of the 1987 Constitution, the Court has had to deal with problems of this nature. Some of the more notable ones are Oposa v. Factoran Jr. (about logging), Tañada v. Angara (on the WTO Treaty) and La Bugal v. Ramos (about mining).

I find Tañada v. Angara worth discussing because it dealt with an economic treaty. Tañada, of course, is not of the same scope as what is involved in Jpepa. But what I find useful about it is the constitutional methodology it used in dealing with the concerns raised about the obligation to "provide national treatment" to all WTO members.

Essentially what Tañada did was an exercise in balancing different legitimate but potentially opposing demands of the Constitution. Or, more precisely, the Court did not do the balancing but left it rather to the Executive and Legislative departments.

The Constitution demands that the state seek a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services provided by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. These are not self-executing provisions.

In equally non-self-executing terms, however, the Constitution ordains the ideals of economic nationalism through provisions scattered in Article II and Article XII. How balance this with the previous set of provisions?

It is true that the much criticized case of Manila Prince Hotel had a restrictive conclusion. But the Court in Tañada dealt with it saying that even Manila Prince did not proscribe a balancing approach. "Rather, the issue is whether, as a rule, there are enough balancing provisions in the Constitution to allow the Senate to ratify the Philippine concurrence in the WTO Agreement." The Court found enough balancing provisions in the treaty to escape being proscribed as an "abuse of discretion." (I might even say that Tañada was a polite way of retreating from Manila Prince.)

But back to Jpepa. Indeed, textual purification of the treaty might be needed. (I shall deal with this next time.) But I think there are also serious policy issues in it which are best left to the departments mandated to decide policy directions.

To the streets of cyberspace

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

IT WOULD SEEM LIKE THE STREETS WILL BE empty of protests arising from the Estrada pardon that will reverberate across the nation. I mean across the nation—not just in Manila which is not necessarily the pulse of this nation's body politic. I lived through the two people power revolts that ousted Marcos and Estrada, not in Manila but in unchronicled Mindanao. And there seems to be none of that against the Estrada pardon by President Macapagal-Arroyo. But cyberspace is different. The INQUIRER's TJ Burgonio wrote about this newfound phenomenon the previous week.

Burgonio cites how the anger against the Estrada pardon is swelling across blogs and chatrooms, among e-mail exchanges and online letters, and even a call for protest rallies at Philippine consulates abroad where the protest calls are being sounded not in stuffy meeting rooms somewhere in Manila but by online organizers across a borderless world.

Call it a paradigm shift—cyberspace was not a factor in 1986 and certainly not as high-tech as it is today during the Estrada ouster in 2001. Indignation in writing has evolved into a social phenomenon. Whether that will be expressed into actual warm bodies out in the streets, as some hope it would, remains to be seen.

Notice how cyberspace was a convenient resource in politically stifled basket-heap Burma (Myanmar), despite the tiny Internet population it has. But the similarity ends there. In the Philippine scenario, writing seems to be a way out of the streets. There is a general malaise of street fatigue that has ironically saved the present dispensation from the persistent "Hello Garci" scandal the past two years. That malaise seems to be eroding the sense of vigilance and participation we used to have in 1986 and 2001. It is a malaise that is born out of the evidence that no real change has actually improved our lives in both upheavals. It is a sense of gnawing frustration that all our political leaders—an unfair perception it may be—are all capable of impeachable offenses as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may be. The year 2010 does not seem to be the light at the end of the tunnel. Just a scan of the list of the obvious political contenders (clowns) and the early political campaigning (circuses) we can read from their lips does not seem to inject political pep into our senses.

Is our political state of health then in its death throes? Not yet perhaps. As an evolving expression of our socio-political agency, we have yet to see—and hope for—a cyberspace that can be a potent tool for mobilizing our collective sense of anger. A word of caution though: we who are expressing our indignation online are part of the elitists—majority of our poor populace have no access to computers. We are not yet what the Indian anthropologist Homi K. Bhabha describes as "a people-nation assuming a function of the social imaginary." But no matter the danger at romanticizing cyberspace, a new arbitrary sign of our nation-space is emerging.

Let me share with you then my own piece of cyberspace that a friend from UP days, Gerard Deza of Iloilo City, sent even before time stood still last Oct. 26 when Arroyo put one over us by pardoning Estrada. Here are excerpts from Gerard's piece on "The Death of Dignity and Rule of Law"—one of the finest I have read in cyberspace.

"Wherever did all those billions that so magically appeared during the last presidential elections come from? What to do with all those properties in Baguio, Boracay and elsewhere collectively worth a significant series of ciphers? Whatever happened to the contents of the envelope? Who ordered Galman killed? There is no reliance on the convenient fallacy of flippancy here. It is just that the figures contemplated are so staggering that when juxtaposed with the situation of Juan de la Cruz who has to provide for a family of four as he drudges to eke out a living for tens of pesos a day, it becomes so incongruous as to be totally ludicrous. Erap is not an exception. Most of us who belong to the hyped hope-of-the-nation middle class grind on at being responsible citizens only to look on with despair and an alarming, ever-increasing detachment and apathy as our hard-earned taxes disappear along the way through systemic sleight-of-hand misdirected and/or justified by the stage patter of legal gobbledygook. No wonder many aspire to be magicians themselves.

"Is Erap guilty? Yes, of course, in the same vein that Chavit Singson was and is guilty. Should Erap be pardoned? We could eventually touch on metaphysics arguing about the relative merits of this proposition, but it won't matter. The answer will be ultimately resolved by the politics of convenience so peculiar in our milieu, and that's the reality of it.

"Is dignity dead? Have we hit rock bottom? Perhaps. I have a feeling, however, that as long as we have Juan de la Cruz, the poorest of the lowest, hanging on to life day by day with that quiet dignity founded on hope and faith, we Filipinos shall endure.

"Is the rule of law buried? Practically yes, but we can still dig it up with the spade of decency. There are many here—the majority, in fact, who remain silent about all these. But discreetly, unassumingly, they do for their fellow Pinoy, their fellow human beings, what is but right and natural. They help. In whatever way they could, sometimes in the only way they know how. These acts of kindness and altruism may go unnoticed; there's no fanfare, no publicity, much less plaques or monuments, but they're there nonetheless. Drops coalesce to form trickles, feeding each other to form streams, and so on, to become an ocean. And this is what keeps afloat our country of birth, despite all the muck and yuck of Philippine-style politics."

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Save the day

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

PERHAPS YOU'VE SEEN A MOVIE TITLED "V for Vendetta," truly a film for our times. In it, a masked man known only as "V" interrupts the state-controlled media and makes an unauthorized televised address to a London in the grip of a totalitarian prime minister.

The speech of V goes like this. It bears reading in full.

"Good evening, London. Allow me first to apologize for this interruption. I do, like many of you, appreciate the comforts of everyday routine—the security of the familiar, the tranquility of repetition. I enjoy them as much as any bloke. But in the spirit of commemoration, thereby those important events of the past usually associated with someone's death or the end of some awful bloody struggle, a celebration of a nice holiday, I thought we could mark this November the 5th, a day that is sadly no longer remembered, by taking some time out of our daily lives to sit down and have a little chat. There are of course those who do not want us to speak. I suspect even now, orders are being shouted into telephones, and men with guns will soon be on their way. Why? Because while the truncheon may be used in lieu of conversation, words will always retain their power. Words offer the means to meaning, and for those who will listen, the enunciation of truth. And the truth is, there is something terribly wrong with this country, isn't there? Cruelty and injustice, intolerance and oppression. And where once you had the freedom to object, to think and speak as you saw fit, you now have censors and systems of surveillance coercing your conformity and soliciting your submission. How did this happen? Who's to blame? Well certainly there are those more responsible than others, and they will be held accountable, but again truth be told, if you're looking for the guilty, you need only look into a mirror. I know why you did it. I know you were afraid. Who wouldn't be? War, terror, disease. There were a myriad of problems which conspired to corrupt your reason and rob you of your common sense. Fear got the best of you, and in your panic you turned to the now high chancellor, Adam Sutler. He promised you order, he promised you peace, and all he demanded in return was your silent, obedient consent. Last night I sought to end that silence. Last night I destroyed the Old Bailey, to remind this country of what it has forgotten. More than four hundred years ago a great citizen wished to embed the fifth of November forever in our memory. His hope was to remind the world that fairness, justice and freedom are more than words, they are perspectives. So if you've seen nothing, if the crimes of this government remain unknown to you then I would suggest you allow the fifth of November to pass unmarked. But if you see what I see, if you feel as I feel, and if you would seek as I seek, then I ask you to stand beside me one year from tonight, outside the gates of Parliament, and together we shall give them a fifth of November that shall never, ever, be forgot."

Every year, on this day, British schoolchildren recite the rhyme, "Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason, and plot," commemorating a failed conspiracy by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Houses of Parliament along with King James I. Recently, The Economist in an editorial on the growing dangers of radical religion referred to Fawkes as "the Catholic Taliban," but in "V for Vendetta," the story revolves around a resistance to a British dictatorship with the former bad guy of British history turned into a symbol of resistance. And in small yet meaningful ways, resistance is what's called for these days.

But how? Not by blowing things up or giving the authorities the satisfaction of beating us up, or, God forbid, inconveniencing those who value the smooth traffic flow more than they care about the disappearance of Jonas Burgos, or inconveniencing the congressmen in cassocks known as the Catholic bishops. So what can we do, that allows us to be considerate of the politically blind, but which will show that we are aware, awake, and not in awe of the authorities?

Consider that the prime message of the government that adores your tax pesos so it can serve up cash buffets in the presidential palace you own, is this: they are all the same. This is meant to discourage your thinking of alternatives, because if all the alternatives are like what we have, better the devil in the duster you already have, to any other devil waiting in the wings. But this argument is only good as long as you agree that indeed, you are like them: that when they say they are all the same, they include you.

Are you really like them? Is the congressman or governor waddling out of Malacañang with a doggie bag full of money, the same as you? Of course not. When they shriek, "let he who is without sin, cast the first stone," they forget the number of guests at the cash buffet didn't include millions like yourself. But OK, let's not cast stones. Let's send something peaceful but equally painful: words on postcard.

Which is why, this Friday, we're going to meet at the Ninoy statue in Makati between 11 and 12 noon, and proceed to the Makati Post Office to mail our postcards to Ms Arroyo. We won't make speeches, we won't wave banners, we won't say anything except what will be on our postcards, and it will come from individuals and be sent to an individual, to tell her exactly what we feel. Join us. Bring a friend. Sacrifice an hour of your time. Be among those who cast the first postcards to be sent to the President's desk in Malacañang.

Remember, remember, the ninth of November, a postcard, a lunch break, and march!

'Moment of silence'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS—THIS UNIVERSITY TOWN ON THE outskirts of Chicago was named after John Evans, the founder of Northwestern University, one of the great institutions of learning in Midwest United States.

Evanston is the home of Rotary International, which today is composed of more than a million Rotarians belonging to some 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries. While the first Rotary Club was formed in Chicago by lawyer Paul Harris over a century ago, its World Headquarters is located in the center of Evanston's business district.

An outstanding Filipino Rotarian, M. A. T. Caparas, was elected president of Rotary International in 1986-87. Another Filipino officer of Rotary International was Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, who served as treasurer of the Executive Committee in 2005.

Remember Joc-joc Bolante?! As an agriculture undersecretary before the 2004 presidential elections, he is suspected to be the mastermind in the diversion of over P728 million in fertilizer funds for Filipino farmers to the campaign kitty of the Arroyo administration. He was able to evade Senate subpoenas aimed at investigating the matter. Citing New People's Army threats on his life, he applied for asylum in the United States. The last report we had was that he was in a detention center in Kenosha, Wisconsin, awaiting final judgment on his asylum appeal.

Calling Attorney Harry Roque. Any news on his current status and whereabouts? People keep telling us that it is best to "move on" but unfortunately things just keep piling up without any sign of resolution. We shouldn't let these guys get off so easily. Having short memories is part of our problem.

In his actuations as an agriculture official, did Bolante uphold the Rotary code of ethics known as the Four-Way Test? (1) Is it the truth? (2) Is it fair to all concerned? (3) Will it build goodwill and better friendship? (4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Some Rotarians I've spoken to say he flunked. Others are quietly supportive, citing the old worn-out line about an individual being innocent until proven guilty. The problem here is Bolante ran away instead of helping himself with evidence of good faith and innocence. The Commission on Audit findings on the case have not been helpful to his cause.

Incidentally, Illinois has had its share of high-profile corruption cases involving state officials. Former Gov. George Ryan was convicted in April 2006 on racketeering and fraud charges and was sentenced to six and a half years in prison. Last week, he lost a motion for new hearings before the federal appellate court in Chicago and unless the US Supreme Court agrees to review his conviction, he is headed for a federal prison on Nov. 7. A former Illinois congressman, Dan Rostenkowski, who used to chair the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the US House of Representatives, also went to jail for, among other crimes, keeping "ghost" employees on his payroll.

Unless we get our misbehaving public officials into jail—not out of jail—we shall not see an end to cases like that of Bolante and others.

Evanston is also the home of Northwestern University. Its Kellogg School of Management and the Medill School of Journalism are two of its institutions that have given the university much of its proud reputation for excellence. Many Filipino students have passed through both schools and gone on to successful careers in government and the private sector. My own daughter, Carmela, finished at Medill in 2002, and now works as a freelance writer and editorial consultant.

An uncle of mine who retired as professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is a longtime resident of Evanston. A World War II veteran, he saw action in Bataan, was taken prisoner, and survived the Death March. A brand-new dental facility—the Dr. Samson Sol and Cecilia Flores Clinical Prosthodontics Laboratory—of the UIC College of Dentistry is named in his honor. He specializes in advanced prosthodontics, having performed maxillofacial surgery on wounded war vets.

* * *

Recently Illinois public schools implemented a new state law that requires a "moment of silence" at the start of every school day. The law reads as follows: "In each public school classroom, the teacher-in-charge shall observe a brief period of silence with the participation of all the pupils at the opening of every school day. This period shall not be conducted as a religious exercise but shall be an opportunity for silent prayer or for silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day."

The new legislation amends the Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act that allowed public schools to provide, if so desired, a period of silent time. The new law requires such a brief period of silence for all students.

The "moment" has not been specifically defined. Some schools provide 10 to 15 seconds while others a full minute. The actual length depends on what school authorities consider appropriate for each class level.

The law was first passed last May but Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich vetoed the bill. His veto was overridden by the state assembly.

As expected, the law faces a court challenge with oppositors claiming that the legislation was a thinly veiled ploy for school prayer. In fact an atheist activist and his daughter filed a lawsuit in the US District Court challenging the constitutionality of the law, contending that the "moment of silence" goes against the constitutional separation of church and state.

What the Philippine public school system needs right now are more classrooms, more qualified teachers and better schoolbooks. With so many students packed like sardines into our classrooms and teachers taking on heavier schedules, a "moment of silence" may be the last thing for consideration. But it is helpful and beneficial to be aware of developments in school activities in other parts of the world.

THEY SAID

Invisible victims

"Hardly have we built our hut when we have to move again, and sometimes we go back to our old huts and rebuild them and then we have to abandon them and flee again. And we begin to ask: Why, why, why? Why are we invisible to the rest of the world? Does the world outside ever care about us?"

—Magdalena Suhat, a member of a minority group in Mindanao that has been displaced many times by armed conflict

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Bribes: impunity in action

GOV. ED PANLILIO HAS PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo by her throat. He holds solid proof of the act of bribery—P500,000 in cold cash. It affirms the stinking bribery in the ZTE deal, the Beltran bribery and the bribery of the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. It indubitably establishes that her administration is surviving through bribery. In fact, the men of faith have not been excluded from such deplorable assaults.

Unsophisticated Juan de la Cruz is asking: When will the President be haled before the bar of justice? Impunity is the word that best describes the President's reign.

The killings are unabated. Corruption is so gross that the Philippines now occupies the topmost step in the ladder of corruption. Government officials have no compunction in openly lying before television. What a shameful administration.

The joke during Marcos' time was: A janitor was asked what the problem of the Philippines was. The lowly janitor, in his blessed innocence, said: "*Ikaw mismo, sir.*"

How about this time?

—V. EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA,
3/F Gonzales Bldg.,
Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City

UP profs deny disputing methane gas angle

REGARDING THE NEWS ITEM "UP PROFS dispute methane gas angle" by TJ Burgonio (INQUIRER, 10/24/07), we want to comment that the headline does not reflect the contents of the article. Rather, it fits another motive: To make the news more interesting.

We are not disputing the methane gas angle or the diesel fuel angle. The two substances are explosive substances under respective appropriate conditions, as reported in many parts of the world.

Given the extent of the damage in the Glorietta blasts, we can list the conditions necessary for methane gas or diesel fuel explosions. However, to avoid any controversy, we will just wait and accept the result of the investigation by the authorities.

—WILFREDO I. JOSE, Ph.D.,
ERNESTO DELA CRUZ, Ph.D.,
professors,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
University of the Philippines

'Twas the work of Santiago City, not Isabela

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS STORY "7M Pinoys stand up, speak out vs poverty" (INQUIRER, 10/19/07) by Cynthia D. Balana. The report stated that the Province of Isabela gathered 94,487 people to speak out against poverty.

We could not believe what we read because it was the local government of Santiago City, under the leadership of Mayor Amelita S. Navarro, that gathered those people for the event. The city's information office reported this number to the United Nations Information Center in the Philippines.

A correction of the news account will be deeply appreciated. More than recognition, we want the truth.

—CLARITA R. JAVIER,
city cooperative development officer,
Santiago City

The story was based on a statement from the United Nations' Makati office.

—CYNTHIA D. BALANA,
reporter, Inquirer

Capalla, Mindanao bishops acting in prudence

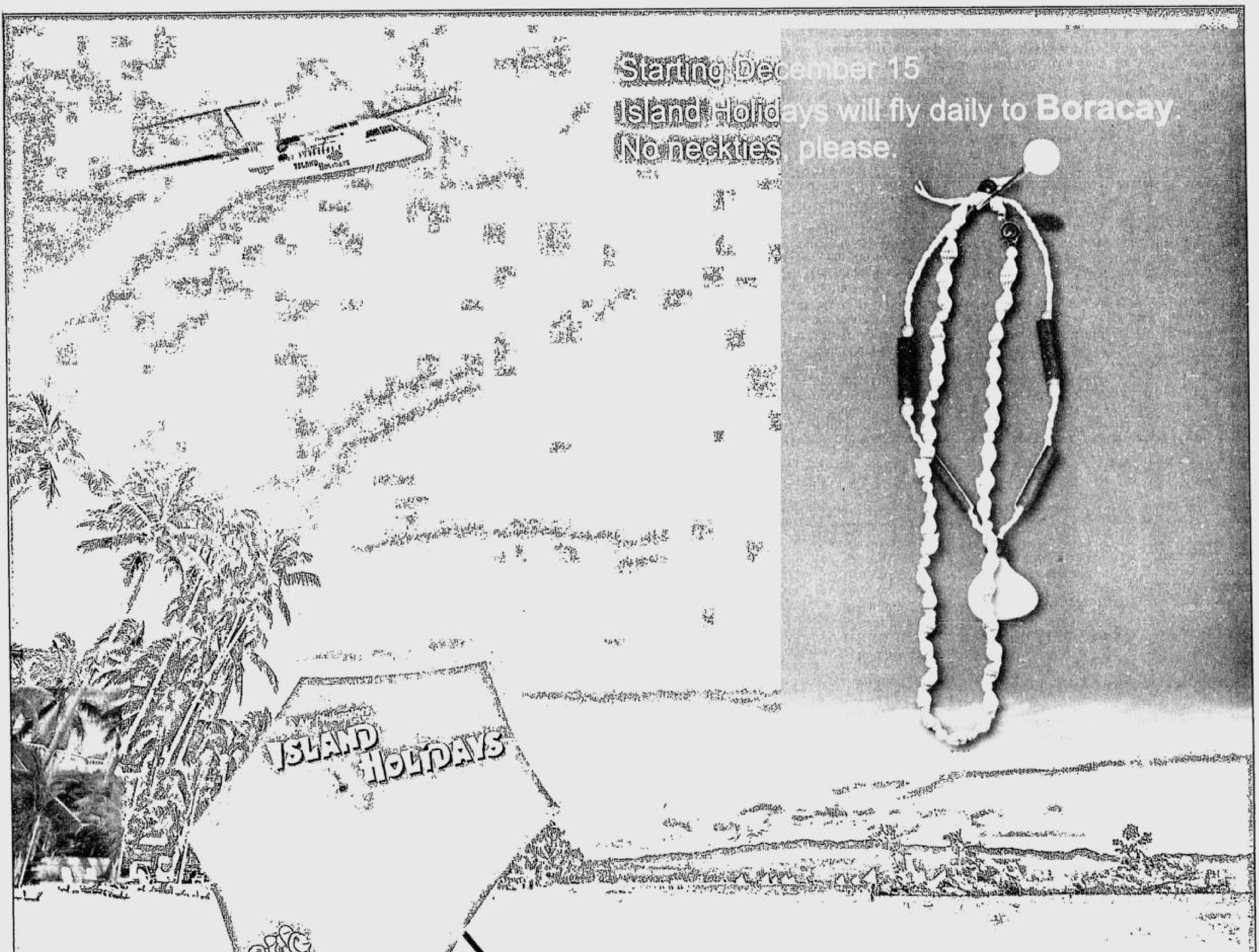
I JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON THE COLumn of Conrado de Quiros titled "Sheep ain't lost, shepherds are." (INQUIRER, 10/25/07) I found the article imprudent and judgmental.

De Quiros accused Archbishop Fernando Capalla as "acting like a toady of the State rather than a prince of the Church." I find this remark very offensive and unfair to the good bishop. I don't know how De Quiros came up with the conclusion that Capalla's definition of thorough and impartial investigation is the same as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's definition.

I saw nothing wrong when Capalla and 18 other bishops from Mindanao said that the whole truth about the moral issue must be ascertained first before subjecting it to moral scrutiny and judgment. I believe that the bishops were just exercising enough prudence in order to be fair to the President.

The way I see it', De Quiros just maliciously misread the prudence of Bishop Capalla and the 18 bishops.

—JOHN MARK BATU,
mac_macstillnew@yahoo.com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Ayala: Glorietta blast not caused by gas buildup

From page A1

jured more than a hundred, Ayala said: "At this point, we don't want to add additional hypotheses."

He read out the assessment of Stephen Etheridge, a chartered scientist of the United Kingdom's Science Council and an expert on biogas, and Burgoynes, an international consulting firm specializing in forensic probes of fires, explosions and engineering failure.

These were some of their findings (paraphrased for brevity):

- Methane, one of two components of biogas, could not have been produced since it takes microorganisms 8 to 10 days to multiply to sufficient quantities. The water in the basement sump pits was discharged to the city sewers "several times a day."
- The accumulation of biogas, which is 20-percent less dense than air, was unlikely "because it would have vented via the large open stairwell leading to the delivery bay that is open to the street."
- Biogas could not have been present because the personnel working in the basement did not smell hydrogen sulfide, which is similar to the odor of rotten eggs, and did not experience nausea, and eye or skin irritation on or before the day of the blast.
- It is unlikely that a gas explosion in the basement would have caused the severe damage observed in the loading bay area because at the time of the blast, the loading bay was open to the street.
- The diesel tank suffered only "minor secondary damage," with its roof deforming and forming a weld, which is "entirely consistent with it having been caused as the result of the primary explosion," thus overpressure in the diesel tank "could not have caused the damage."
- Upon testing by a major oil company, the "flash point"—or the temperature required for the combustion of vapor from a liquid—of the diesel fuel in the tank was found to be normal at 76 degrees Celsius and within specification.

Open to other angles

Police said they were keeping an "open mind" on their investigation of the deadly blast and had not ruled out anything, including a terrorist attack.

Asked why the methane gas theory had become the most prominent among all the possible causes of the blast, Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said it was because of the "sludge" found in the basement of the mall.

Barias thanked ALI for furnishing the Philippine National Police with a copy of its statement on its own findings before meeting the press.

The National Bureau of Investigation also said it remained "open" to other angles should the evidence present itself although it stood by the gas explosion theory of the PNP.

Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said the unit had not completely dispelled other possibilities in the probe of the Glorietta 2 blast. The NBI is part of the PNP-led task force investigating the explosion.

Asis said the NBI probe was far from over because materials like electrical devices recently retrieved from the basement were still under analysis.

Busted fuse

Asked to comment on the photos of a busted fuse retrieved from the basement, which some believe sparked the explosion, Emilio Tumbocon, president of Ayala Property Management Corp., said it was just a piece of old equipment.

"The fuse box shown in the papers today is the fuse box of the old jack pump, which has already been decommissioned. It is not used anymore and was replaced by a new jack pump," he said.

"It wasn't connected. That was a fuse box from old equipment," he said, adding that it was not near the diesel tank.

At the press conference, Ayala showed a three-dimensional rendering of the basement where the blast was believed to have originated, and pointed out the locations of the two sump pits in one corner and the diesel tank a few meters away.

"It is not a septic tank but a transfer pump," he said. Each of the two sump pits, which at 1.5 x 1.2 x 2.25 meters "is no deeper than my own height," were two submersible pumps that discharged the wastewater into the main sewer line, he added.

Ayala said the second pump was for "backup, in case the main pump malfunctioned."

Curve in a beam

Asked to comment on reports that the Philippine Bomb Data Center had discovered the center of the explosion and found a "curve" in a beam that may indicate a bomb, Ayala said: "We were at the site yesterday, and we observed the beam in question."

"We understand that authorities are looking at this very carefully and we would encourage them to continue this line of investigation," he said.

Ayala also emphasized the tremendous pressure required to cause the explosion that occurred at Glorietta.

"Our findings show that there was quite a bit of pressure created in the basement. At the same time, there was quite a bit of damage in the ground floor area, outside, and in the loading bay area," he said.

"For that to occur, it would have required 270 tons of force or 270 cars to push it up and lift a concrete slab 14 meters [into the air]. There was a lot of pressure moving around both in the basement and the ground level," he said.

"If you look at how much structural damage, with walls reinforced with concrete ... our experts feel that if there was really gas explosion in the basement, it would be difficult to explain what happened on the ground floor," he said.

He also reiterated that the company was not negligent in the maintenance of the basement. "Because we are ruling out methane and diesel fumes as the source of the explosion, we don't think negligence is relevant with respect to these possibilities," he said.

He said that the basement was actually under the direct control of Makati Supermarket, which has a land-lease contract with ALI, though both tenant and landlord were responsible for the maintenance of the building.

"ALI and Makati Supermarket are both involved in maintenance procedures. Makati Supermarket contracts a maintenance firm and ALI provides, through the expertise of the Ayala Property Management Corp., technical assistance and supervision of the facilities," Reyes said. *With reports from Allison W. Lopez and Nikko Dizon*

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Artists urged to condemn ...

From page A1

tual right has been infringed. In a way, it's a form of censorship."

Visual artist Nunelucio "Nune" Alvarado said: "If you commissioned a work, then altered it, that's immoral. That's a lack of respect for a work of art. Even if you pay for a work, there should be respect for it."

The Neo-Angono Artists Collective has condemned the alterations to the mural on press freedom initiated by the NPC without the group's consent.

The 8-foot x 32-foot painting, priced at P900,000, was installed at Headline Restaurant on the third floor of the NPC building at the foot of Jones Bridge in Intramuros, Manila. It was unveiled by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the club's 55th founding anniversary on Oct. 26.

The Presidential Security Group (PSG) inspected the painting the day before the unveiling, and questioned certain "leftist marks," according to NPC director Joel Sy Egco.

This prompted the NPC president, Roy Mabasa, to call the Angono artists to retouch the mural. Since none of them were available, he tapped another artist to retouch the mural overnight, Mabasa said.

The PSG denied influencing the club to retouch the mural. The mural depicts a man reading a newspaper in the midst of a crowd on a busy street.

The alterations included the replacement of the International Federation of Journalists' statement on a page of the paper being read by the central figure. The statement was painted over with a bird, and the *alibata* K on the arm of the figure of Andres Bonifacio was changed to a pierced heart. The *alibata* is the native Filipino alphabet.

Other changes were:

- Replacing the headline of the newspaper that Jose Rizal is holding, "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted'" with "Press Freedom Fight Is On."
- Altering the faces of Edita Burgos and her missing son Jonas.
- Erasing the name of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines from a banner of demonstrators.
- Making Randy David's hair and mustache longer.
- Painting a beard and a mustache on the face of a man (depicted as columnist Juan Mercado) selling eggs and *balut*, and changing his hair color from white to black.

Reyes said an assistant of a muralist could do the retouching, but with the "knowledge and permission" of the original artists themselves.

"The final end-result must have the imprimatur and stamp of approval of the artists," he added.

Censorship

Reyes, who read the story and saw the alterations, said he agreed completely with the Angono artists that the alterations were a form of censorship, and showed a lack of respect for the integrity of an artwork.

"They can't take it back because the NPC owns the work. It's enough that they have made a public declaration condemning the act," he said, when asked about recourses of the artists.

On whether the artists could file a case for violation of the Intellectual Property Code, he said: "I can't answer that now. That involves the law. There's a difference between artistic declaration and legal violation."

Reyes said the alterations introduced by another artist to the mural by the Angono artists "should not be emulated by other groups which commission pieces."

Sign manifesto

Alvarado, 57, a visual artist since the 1970s, urged all artists to mobilize and sign a manifesto condemning the act.

Reyes said he saw no problem with the NPC proposal for the artists to restore the mural to its original state.

Egco had said the artists could freely go to the NPC building and correct the "minor, temporary changes," but the artists rejected this.

After all the alterations, is it still fit for viewing?

"There are two ways of looking at it. For me to say that it's not fit for viewing does not prevent the NPC from displaying it. There's nothing you can do because they own the painting," Reyes said.

"Since they are the owners, they can display it. But, again, we go back to the position of the artists. The most you can do is make a public declaration that you had violated our personal expression," he said.

Spread the issue

The artists have yet to decide whether to formalize their complaint with the Intellectual Property Office, or file a case against the NPC.

"As of now, the stand of the group is to spread the issue to the artist community and get their support. We want to anchor the issue on intellectual property rights because this is a test case of [those] rights," said Richard Gappi, Neo-Angono Artists Collective president.

Open to dialogue

The NPC, for its part, has remained open to a dialogue with the artists.

"That's what we've been telling the Neo. We should hold a dialogue, and then perfect the mural. I don't want the mural to suffer. The mural is like a child of mine. I was the father, and they gave birth to it," said Egco, the project director.

"From Day One, I was with them. It was hard to conceptualize. The mural is beautiful as it is. I just wished the parents perfected it. There's still room for corrections," he added.

Gappi replied: "They have not even called us to show their sincerity."

Yesterday, Egco said he did not say that it was the PSG guards who ordered the alterations. He also said he wasn't around when the PSG inspected the NPC premises, including the mural, on Oct. 25.

"I was just told [that they were there]. I wasn't there [during the inspection]," he said in a text message.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Saturday, Egco said the PSG had found some images in the painting too leftist, and this caused the NPC to ask the Angono artists to retouch them.

Because the artists were not available, Mabasa tapped someone to do the retouching.

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6 find hope at Quezon Memorial Circle

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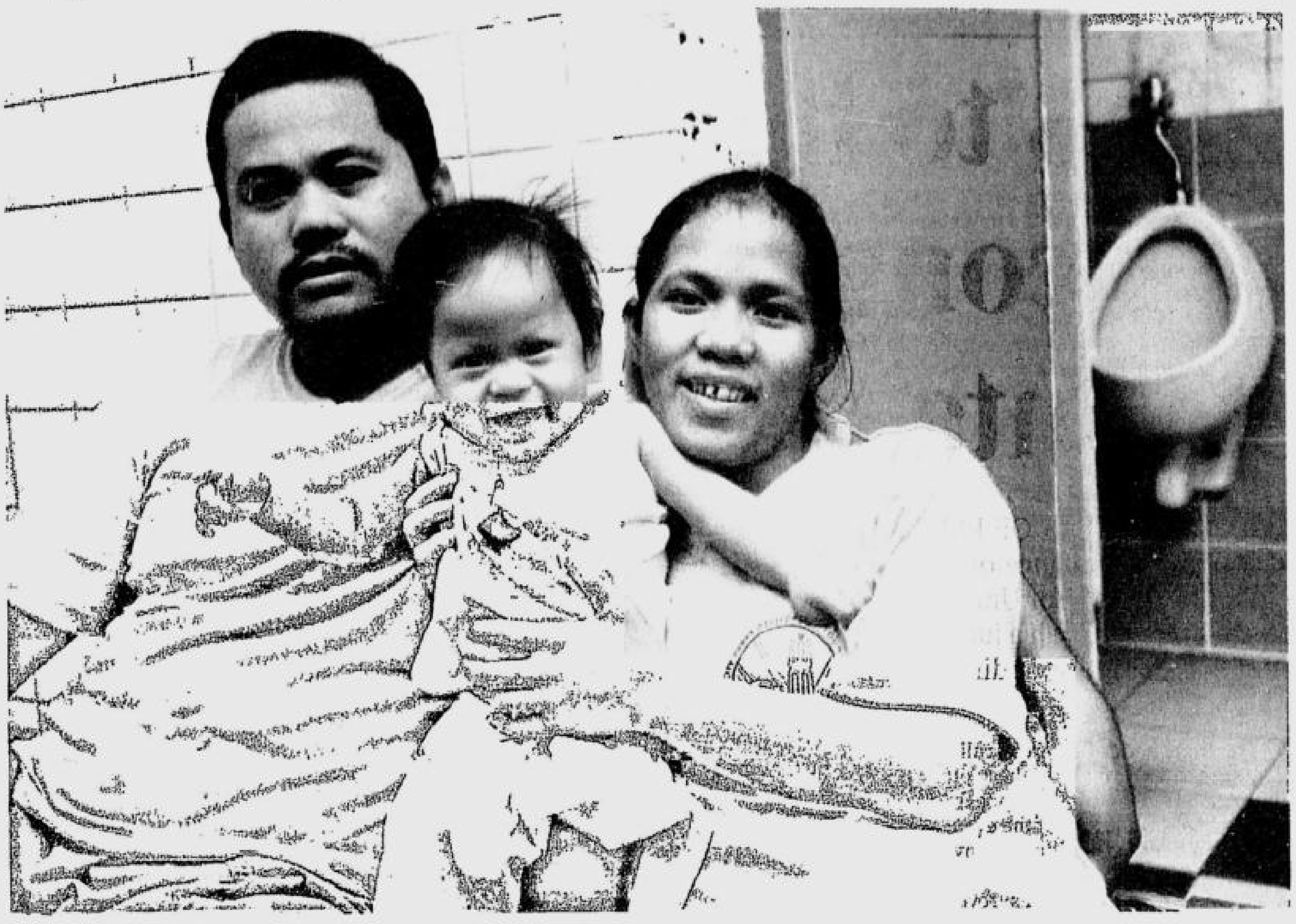


MICHAEL Burgos, his wife Jill Cruz and their 9-month-old daughter Crystal take temporary shelter in a men's rest room at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

JOAN BONDOC

and 18, respectively.

The social worker told a colleague who informed Quezon City Parks Development Foundation Inc. (QCPDFI) chair Charito Planas.

Planas was touched by the boys' brave admission and asked to meet with them. She felt hope for them because they still had a conscience and helped them go back to school.

Now, Jeffrey is at the top of his high school sophomore class at the Culiat Annex school, while Bernard is taking a vocational course in air-conditioning repair.

"We now have plans for our lives," Bernard says in Filipino as Jeffrey nods in assent.

In the past, the boys worked as jeepney barkers at Philcoa and Tandang Sora avenues in Quezon City.

So much distrust

Jeffrey says they used to hate the rich because "they distrust us so much. We go near them and they avoid us."

In one incident, he overheard an overprotective mother tell her young child: "'Get away from him. He's a snatcher.' We were always insulted by the rich and looked down upon."

Jeffrey says the few coins they earned as barkers they used to buy solvent or a bowl of rice swimming in beef or chicken stock. If they were still hungry, they would steal food from tables inside fast-food restaurants momentarily left unattended by customers.

Bernard says they usually slept at the circle.

Asked where in the park they used to sleep, he answers in jest: "We have a very big mansion here," gesturing at the vastness of the park.

Their aversion toward the "rich" was somewhat reduced when they met volunteer social workers from Assumption College.

"We used to insult them. We told them that they should avoid us like the other rich people. But they did not give up. They showed us that not all rich people are snobs," Jeffrey says.

It was the Assumption volunteers who introduced them to Child Hope, a nongovernmental organization helping children get off the streets.

Faith Elahe, Child Hope social worker and street educator, met the boys early this year.

Touched by sincerity

Jeffrey and Bernard were so touched by the apparent sincerity of Child Hope, they expressed remorse and confessed to having stolen cellular phones from visitors to the Quezon Memorial Circle. They said they did it to help a third accomplice, who needed the money to buy medicine for a sick parent.

"They really wanted to return the cell phones but since [they had already sold the phones] and had no means of [getting them back] or returning them [to the owners], they said they wanted to change," says Elahe, who arranged the boys' meeting with the QCPDFI chair.

Planas asked the boys what they wanted out of life. Jeffrey said he wanted to finish high school, while Bernard said he wanted to get a job.

Planas learned from Elahe that Jeffrey came from a dysfunctional family and was forced to stop school because his parents could no longer afford his education.

She offered to send him to Culiat Annex. During the first few months, she discovered he was a smart boy.

"His grades were not that high then but I told him that if he pulled up his grades, I could get him a scholarship and put him through college," Planas says.

At the end of the third grading period, Jeffrey went to Planas' office with his report card. He was at the top of his class.

"I want to take up civil engineering, then maybe buy myself a mansion," Jeffrey says. Bernard dreams of getting a job and starting a family.

Second chance

Misfortune hounded Michael Burgos, 31, and his common-law wife Jill Cruz, 18, and their 9-month-old daughter Maria Crystal before life gave them a second chance at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Burgos used to work as a security guard but lost his job because the agency he belonged to turned out to be operating illegally.

"I could not find a job that could help my family survive. I tried construction work and ended up being a scavenger because without papers, nobody wanted to employ me," says Burgos, adding that the fly-by-night security agency refused to surrender his credentials.

Neither could the couple return to their families who were strongly against the relationship.

"I love my wife and I cannot bear being separated from her," says Burgos, adding that Cruz's family was willing to take her back on condition that she left him.

So they moved from place to place, their belongings in plastic bags, reaching as far as Pasay City. At one point, they were sleeping at the Luneta where most of their possessions were stolen, prompting them to find a safe place to stay.

After Maria Crystal was born in February, they moved to the circle. They begged for alms in the day and slept in the park at night. They did this for three months until a park employee convinced them to approach Planas.

The QCPDFI chair initially offered Burgos a job with the barangay but eventually told him to rent one of the rest rooms in the park as a concessionaire.

Planas also allowed the homeless family to live in the men's rest room near the park's food court until they could find a place of their own.

"I now have a source of income and a place to live … until we can bounce back," Burgos says.

Mama Planas

Samantha Grace Planas Maceda was abandoned by her mother at the Quezon Memorial Circle when she was just 2 months old. This was in 2000.

Maceda now considers Planas her mother.

Planas says the child, now 7 years old, has grown up to be a well-rounded individual who is wise beyond her years.

The QCPDFI chair says that although Maceda is not interested in going back to her biological mother, the little girl is curious about the identity of her parents.

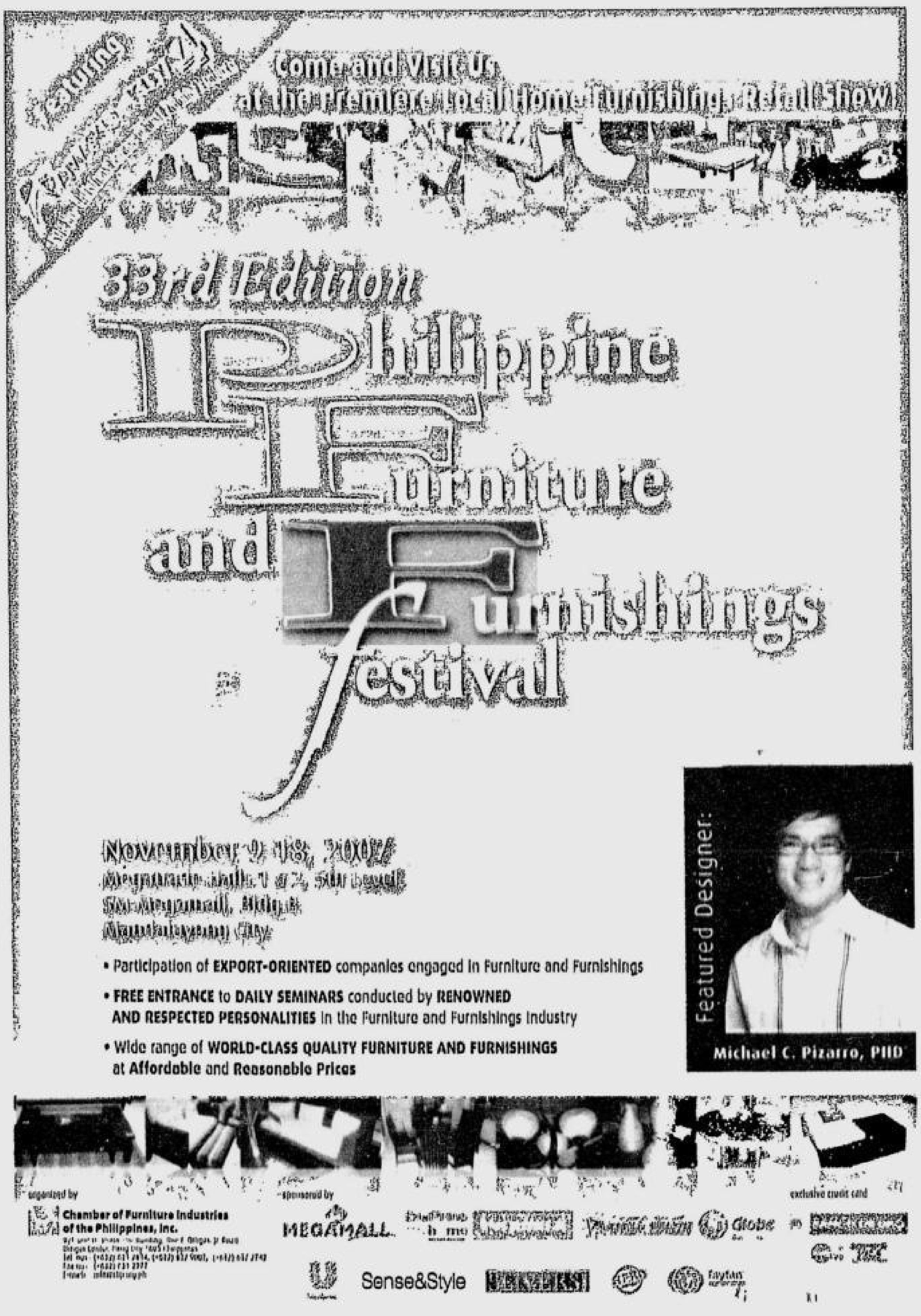
"I told her I know the name of her mother but I cannot tell her because I made a promise," Planas says, adding that the child's mother had called up the QCPDFI at least three times.

Maceda's mother had asked Planas for one thing: "Please take good care of my daughter."

This is something Planas has been doing since Maceda was left in her care.

"She can carry her own in a conversation with adults and is never shy talking with public officials, including Mayor (Feliciano) Belmonte," Planas says.

She adds that Maceda once told her: "Mama, I will be president."



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Fairy-tale ending …

From page A1

and bandaged, but each with his own life.

The tale captivated the public and generated headlines around the globe.

"Dateline NBC" chronicled the boys' journey; one newspaper hailed the surgeons as miracle doctors; and the twins' mother, Arlene Aguirre, appeared on CNN and on the "Today" show.

She repeatedly expressed her gratitude for the medical care, attention and good wishes her children received at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

And always, she smiled.

Four years later, the cameras are gone, but the Aguirres are not. The twins need more surgery, and it can only be performed here.

And Arlene is alone, contemplating the uncertainties of the future and struggling to care for her boys, who are still in diapers even though they are 5.

Carl can speak a few words, but they are often unintelligible, and he cannot walk on his own because of an impaired left side; he crawls with his right knee and arm, dragging his limp left limbs as he moves about the house.

Clarence can walk and talk, though his speech is somewhat garbled.

The boys do not eat well, so they must be fed all night, every night. Liquid food is pumped into their bodies through tubes Arlene attaches to an opening in their bellies.

There are also financial concerns: The family lives in a home managed by a charity, and Arlene is not sure how much longer they will be allowed to stay.

If the donations that have supported them dry up, she wonders, how is she going to provide for her sons since, as a visitor from abroad, she is not allowed to work?

What if their visas are not renewed and they are forced to return to the Philippines, where they lived in a poor village with no electricity, before doctors can close the holes left in the boys' skulls?

"I guess nobody really think, if ever we're going to live in a community, how we're going to survive," she said, struggling to express herself in English. *New York Times News Service*

Jammers cut off …

From page A1

20-something woman who, he said, was "blabbing away" into her phone.

"She was using the word 'like' all the time. She sounded like a valley girl," said the architect, Andrew, who declined to give his last name because what he did next was illegal.

Andrew reached into his shirt pocket and pushed a button on a black device the size of a cigarette pack. It sent out a powerful radio signal that cut off the chatterer's cell phone transmission—and any others in a 30-foot radius.

"She kept talking into her phone for about 30 seconds before she realized there was no one listening on the other end," he said. His reaction when he first discovered he could wield such power? "Oh, holy moly! Deliverance."

The technology is not new, but overseas exporters of jammers say demand is rising and they are sending hundreds of them a month into the United States—prompting scrutiny from federal regulators and new concern this week from the cell phone industry.

The buyers include owners of cafés and hair salons, hoteliers, public speakers, theater operators, bus drivers and, increasingly, commuters on public transportation.

The development is creating a battle for control of the airspace within earshot. And the damage is collateral. Insensitive talkers impose their racket on the defenseless, while jammers punish not just the offender, but also more discreet chatterers.

The jamming technology works by sending out a radio signal so powerful that phones are overwhelmed and cannot communicate with cell towers. The range varies from several feet to several yards, and the devices cost from $50 to several hundred dollars. Larger models can be left on to create a no-call zone.

Using the jammers is illegal in the United States. The radio frequencies used by cell phone carriers are protected, just like those used by television and radio broadcasters.

The Federal Communication Commission says people who use cell phone jammers could be fined up to $11,000 for a first offense. Its enforcement bureau has prosecuted a handful of American companies for distributing the gadgets—and it also pursues their users. *New York Times*

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GMA allies to hold 'people's congress' against junta plan

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo in her home province of Pampanga are convening a "People's Congress for Unity and Peace" tomorrow to counter calls to establish a junta on the heels of recent corruption scandals hounding her administration.

"The recent call of [former Vice President] Teofisto Guingona [Jr.] and a few bishops to dismantle the current democratic institutions in favor of a junta is shocking as it is nauseating," said a draft of the congress' manifesto.

Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan, chair of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council, and Alex Cauguiran, chair of the Progressive and Responsive Organization for Genuine Leadership, Outstanding Reform Initiative and Action (Pro-Gloria), have initiated the congress, sources said.

Pamintuan and Cauguiran are both presidential appointees.

In separate interviews, Pamintuan and Cauguiran said they expected the "reconciliation and peace campaign" to snowball in other parts of the country.

The draft manifesto cited the economic strides made under Ms Arroyo, describing the economy to be "on the upswing."

Even as the congress called for unity, Pampanga's highest official, Gov. Eddie Panlilio, appeared to have been shut out of the event.

Sources said some convenors questioned his presence in the congress owing to his revelation that he received P500,000 in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

"I was not invited to the congress. If they were really calling for unity as they claimed, why did they not invite me or others who cared to listen? This does not help in unity-building," Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, said.

San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez has asked that his name be removed from the list of convenors because, according to an official close to him, the official had objected to a statement in the congress' draft.

The source said Rodriguez felt that Panlilio was among those being alluded to by this statement: "It also saddens us that here in Pampanga, certain personalities have allowed themselves, either out of naivete or ambition, to be part of this desperate cabal."

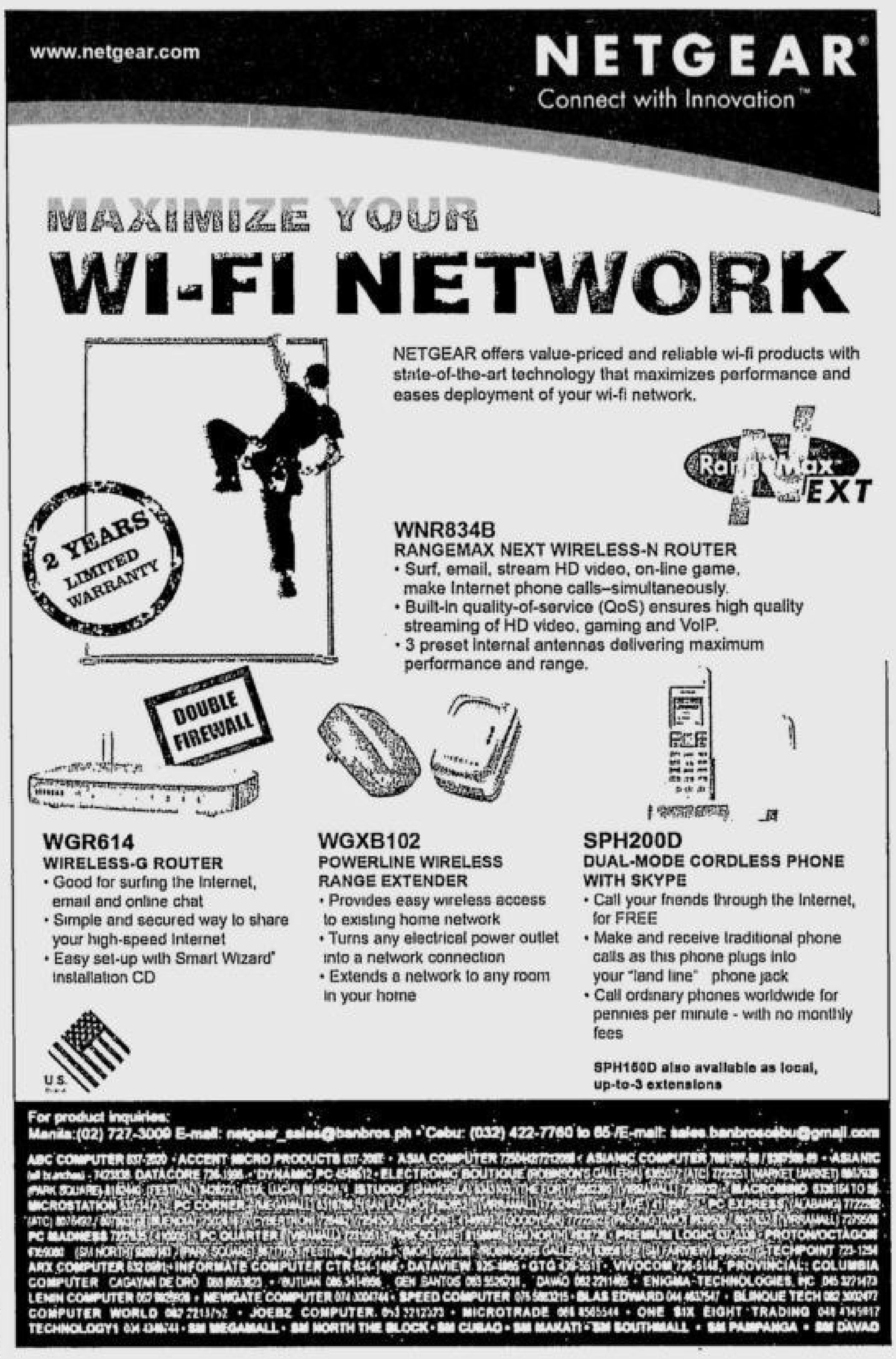
Asked whether he was supporting Ms Arroyo, Panlilio said: "I am pro-truth. I also ran as an independent and I wanted to maintain my independence. I respect their decision to show support for the President because that's the sense of some of our *kabalen* (province mates). That's understandable."

He added: "I am definitely against a military junta because the [League of Provinces of the Philippines] in its last caucus concurred that we would follow the rule of law [in the latest impeachment try against the President]. I think that is the more appropriate process."

Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, spokesperson of the Pampanga Mayors' League, said Panlilio had been invited to the congress.

"*Hinihintay namin siya. Lahat* invited *dun.* (We're waiting for him. Everybody is invited) It is for unity," he said.

As for the part in the statement that alluded to Panlilio, Pelayo said: "*Iba ang nag-*draft *nun. Wala yun. Wala yun.* (It was drafted by another person. That part is not there anymore)." *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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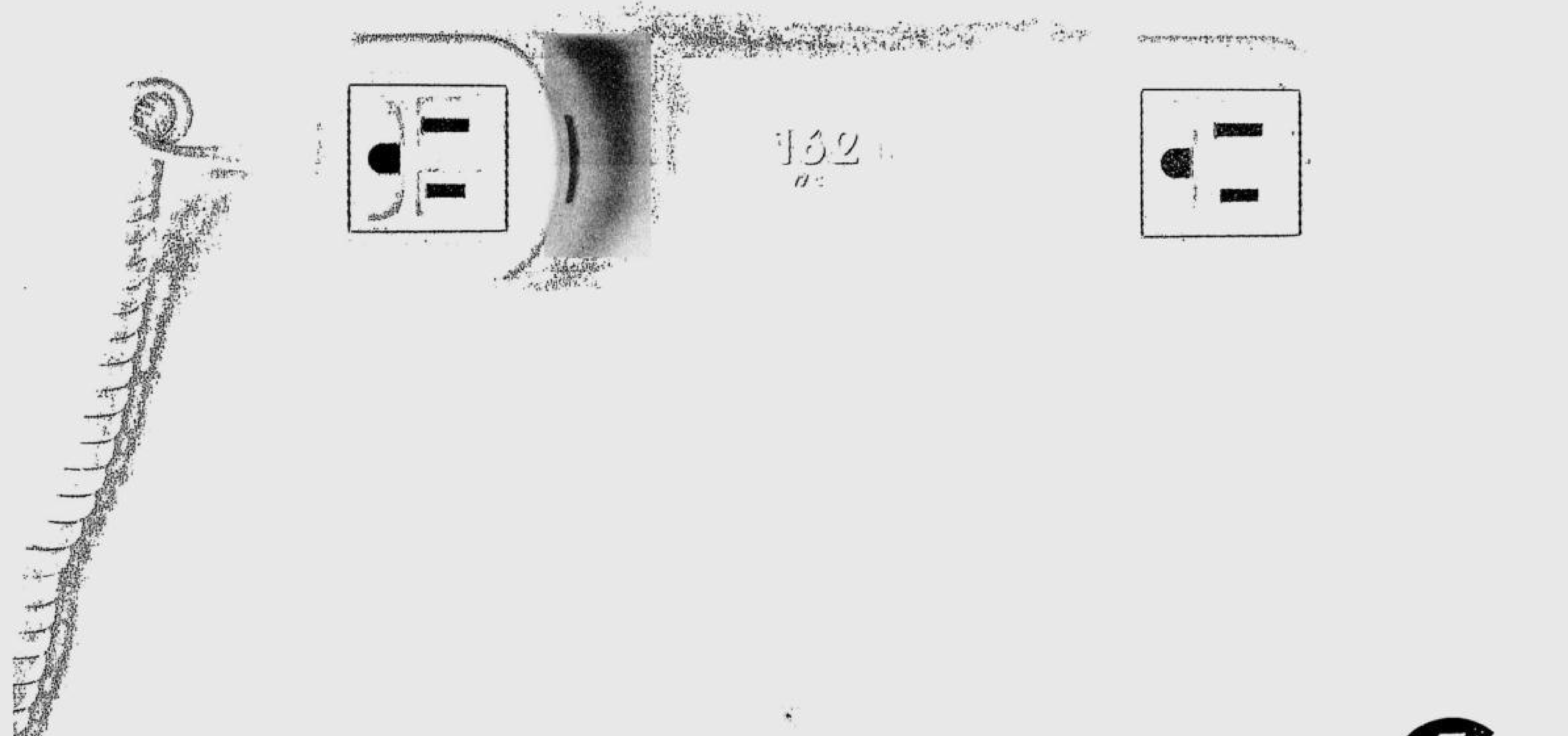

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Antimining bloc sweeps polls in 6 southern Palawan villages

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—ANTIMINING candidates in last week's barangay elections swept promining rivals in an intensely fought contest in Brooke's Point, Palawan, where two large-scale nickel mining projects are starting out.

Campaigning on a platform to oppose the projects, the antimining bloc won in all six barangays covered by mining projects of MacroAsia Corp. and Ipilan Nickel Mining Corp., according to Vice Mayor Jean Feliciano.

Feliciano, herself installed by antimining votes in the May polls, told the INQUIRER that the barangay elections were "most intense" in areas where the mining companies were operating.

Both MacroAsia and Ipilan were on the exploration stage and needed local endorsements of their projects to secure permits.

"We won by a landslide in Ipilan and edged the incumbent promining candidate in Maasin by a single vote. It was a triumph of public resolve to protect the environment," Feliciano said.

Ipilan, the largest barangay with over 3,000 registered voters and host to Ipilan Nickel Mining Corp., a subsidiary of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., voted overwhelmingly for an antimining crusader, Jonathan Lagrada, who went up against incumbent and Association of Barangay Captains chair Efren Balmonte.

Balmonte earlier led a petition to block the declaration of Mt. Mantalingahan as a protected area, a move which Feliciano claimed was instigated by mining companies which wanted to encroach into the reserve for their future operations.

A Tagbanua indigenous leader, Panglima Quirino Tanogan, won in Barangay Sarasa, also a mining site of Ipilan Nickel.

"The mining companies did everything to retain the incumbent barangay captains whom they have coopted to support the mining projects," Feliciano claimed.

The INQUIRER asked MacroAsia's vice president for mining operations, Rufu Cabanlig, to comment on the poll outcome in Brooke's Point but got no response. *Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

LANTERNS FROM PRISON NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON
Christmas lanterns made by prisoners of the Albay provincial jail are sold in Barangay Tagas, Daraga, Albay for P50-P800 each.

Group, tribe leader hail mining moratorium

CITY OF MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL—An environmentalist group and leader of the Mandaya tribe hailed the decision of Gov. Corazon Malanyaon to impose a mining moratorium in Lupon and Banaybanay towns.

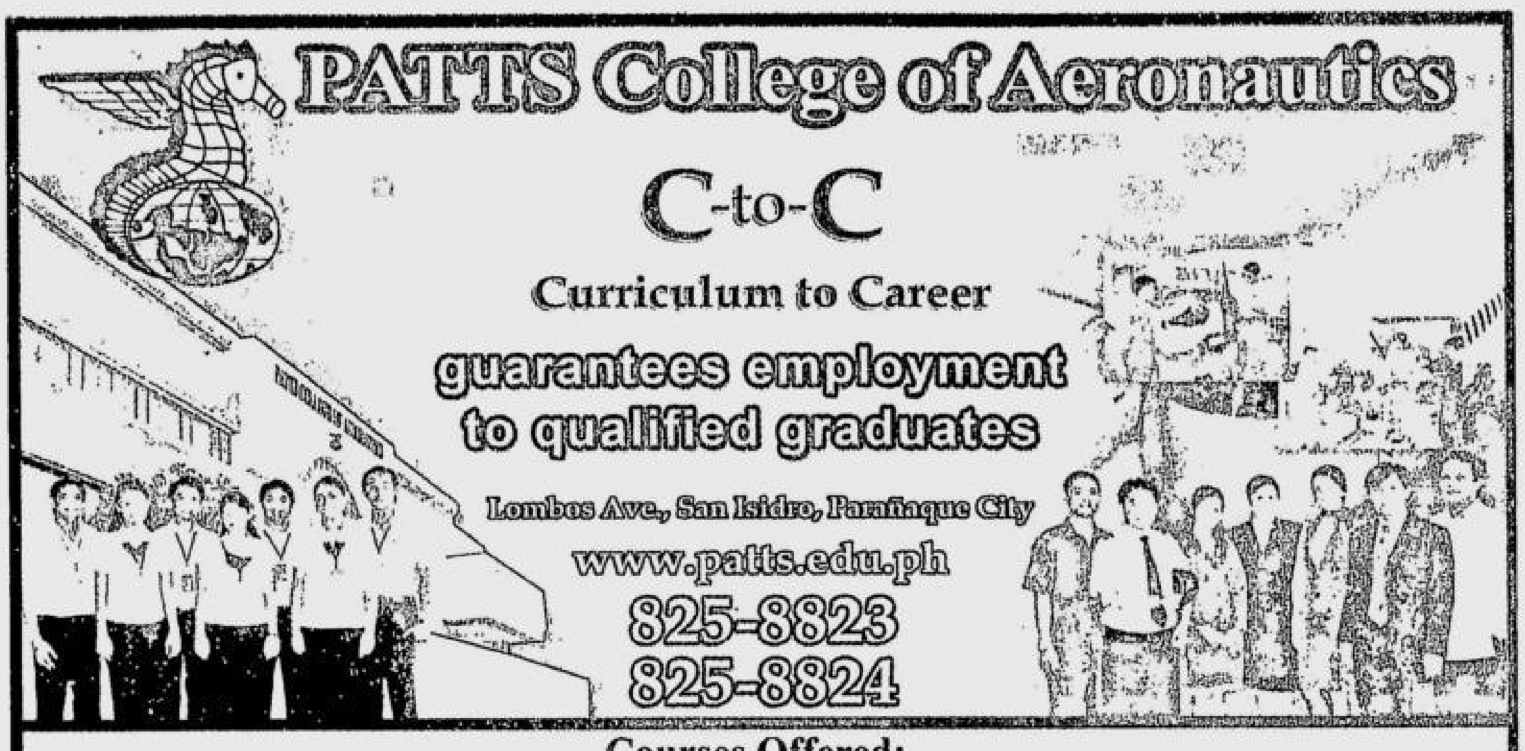
"It is the best thing to do—to impose mining moratorium in these areas—to stop the violence. We fully support the move of Governor Malanyaon," said Fr. Medardo Salomia, head of environmental group Interfaith Movement for Peace Empowerment and Development which actively opposed the entry of large-scale mining companies to this city.

"The moratorium order will restore peace and order in these areas. And the people must support it," Salomia added.

Melinda Tecson, a leader of the Mandaya, said the order had significantly stopped the violence in the mining areas.

Malanyaon issued the order to stop the "anarchy" that cost the lives of many people who go after each other for gold and nickel.

"We really have to put a stop to the ongoing anarchy in these minerals-rich towns," Malanyaon said. *Ferdinand Zuasola, Inquirer Mindanao*



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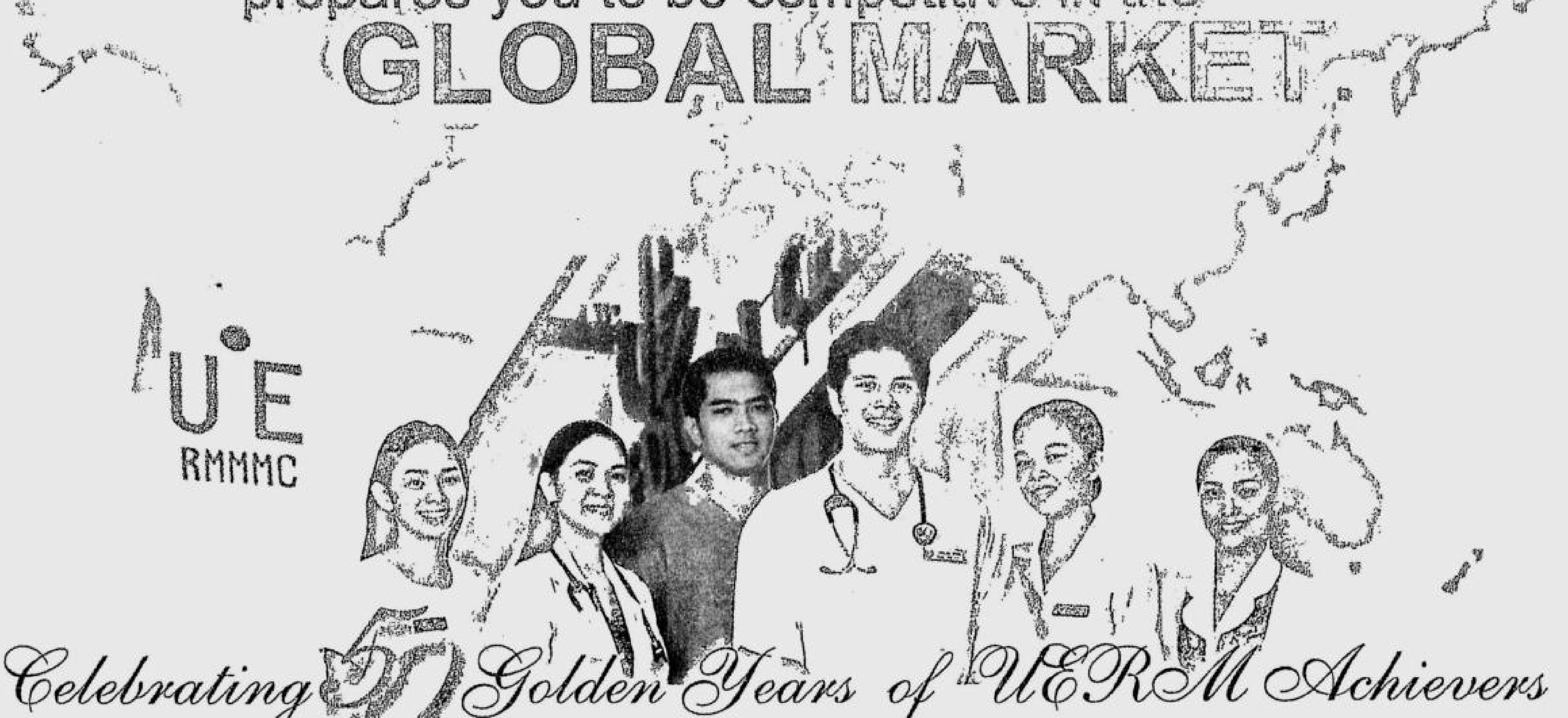

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3 dead, 7,000 families displaced in Sulu fire

DAVAO CITY—THREE PERSONS were killed while several others were injured in a five-hour fire that hit Siasi, Sulu, at around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Hadja Jainab Abdulmajid, Sulu disaster coordinating center chief, said two Marine soldiers were among those injured.

Abdulmajid said 7,000 families were displaced from the affected areas of Siasi poblacion, North Laud and South Laud.

A gasoline station was among those razed, Undersecretary Amilbahar Amilasan of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) for Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi, reported.

Maj. Gen. Reuben Rafael, Task Force Comet chief, said military patrol boats were dispatched to help evacuate the injured victims.

An emergency medical team was also organized to help them, Amilasan said.

Rafael said that based on initial investigation, the fire started from a stall selling gasoline.

The lack of water supply contributed to the difficulty in putting off the fire, he said.

Sending more firefighters from other towns was also difficult as Siasi, an island town, is about three hours of travel from Jolo, officials said. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

2,000 troops beef up anti-NPA drive

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE ARMY IS deploying around 2,000 troops, including 1,000 militiamen, in the Visayas to beef up its campaign against communist rebels.

Maj. Gen. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said seven companies of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) with 1,091 personnel would be deployed in three provinces in the region.

The division will also deploy at least two battalions in Negros Island as part of its plan to crush the insurgency before 2010. A battalion is composed of around 500 soldiers.

The unit covers the islands of Panay, Negros, Bohol, Cebu and Siquijor, but Negros is considered a top priority in the Army's counterinsurgency operations in the Visayas.

Four Cafgu companies will also be deployed in Negros Occidental, two companies in Bohol and a company in Cebu, Narcise said.

The militias had just completed a four-month Basic Military Training at the 3rd ID headquarters at Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz.

Narcise said their places of assignment were the main priority in the internal security operation of the 3rd ID for 2007 until next year.

Panay is considered a secondary priority.

Narcise said Negros accounts for half of the 12 New People's Army (NPA) fronts in Central and Western Visayas. Panay has four guerrilla fronts while Cebu and Bohol Islands have one each, he said.

The militia units will maintain the military's presence in areas declared "cleared" from rebel influence so that the regular troops and battalions can be transferred to other rebel-influenced areas.

The 3rd ID aims to "clear" northern Cebu of its remaining NPA Front Committee by the end of the year and also a Front Committee in Bohol within the period.

A Cafgu company will then be deployed in Northern Cebu and two companies in Bohol, he said.

The 3rd ID in June deployed around 500 troops or their equivalent to a battalion of soldiers in Western and Central Visayas.

An additional 182 soldiers were sent to Negros, 140 to Cebu and Bohol, and 173 to Panay.

NPA rebels have stepped up their offensives in recent years, including attacks on cell sites and raids on town halls and isolated military and police posts.

In Sorsogon, the NPA's Jose Rapsing Command in Masbate owned up to the Oct. 29 attack on the Globe cell site on Ticao Island in the province.

A certain Val Silang, who introduced himself as the command spokesperson of NPA-Masbate, said it was part of a nationwide campaign of the rebel group.

On Oct. 13, NPA rebels raided and torched a Globe Telecommunications cell site in Camarines Sur. *With a report from Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NEWSBRIEFS

Village chair killed in Isabela

ILAGAN, ISABELA—A village chair was shot and killed by suspected communist rebels on Oct. 31 in San Mariano town. Chief Insp. Antonio Marallag Jr., provincial police investigation and intelligence chief, said Dibuluan village chair Nicolas Collado died from three bullet wounds in the head and body. The official was attacked by suspected New People's Army rebels in his house.

Collado was serving his third term and did not run for any position in the Oct. 29 barangay elections, reports said. In a statement, Vic Balligi, spokesperson of the NPA's Reynaldo Piñon Command, said rebels killed Collado for "blood debts to the people."

Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Oil depots in commercial area

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Giant oil firms Chevron, Petron and Shell have asked the city government for a 10-year extension of their oil depots in Barangay Bula.

Under the city's zoning ordinance passed in 1990, Bula was identified as a commercial area. With the passage of the ordinance, the oil depots were considered risks and that the oil companies were given until March next year to relocate.

Mark Quebral, spokesperson for Chevron, warned that the closure of the depots would affect fuel supply in many Central Mindanao areas.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. said the city government is mandated by law to enforce the ordinance. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

Diarrhea outbreak in Davao Sur; 6 dead

DON MARCELINO, DAVAO DEL SUR—At least six children, aged 4 to 6 years, have died since Oct. 29 as government officials continued to cope with a diarrhea outbreak in several villages here.

Mayor John Johnson said 60 others were affected by the disease that could have been caused by contaminated water. Most of the victims were residents of the hinterland village of Lamidan, which is predominantly populated by Manobo and Tagakaulo natives.

Dr. Darwin Trinidad, a physician at the Malita district hospital, said he had ordered the municipal health office to trace the source of the disease to prevent more people from getting ill. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

3 nabbed for marijuana

SULOP, DAVAO DEL SUR—Three persons were arrested here on Tuesday after police authorities found marijuana plants inside the compound they were staying in.

Sulop police chief Insp. Wilfredo Racoma said that aside from the five fully grown marijuana plants, the suspects also yielded packets of dried marijuana leaves.

Racoma said charges had already been filed against the suspects, who were detained at the town jail. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Water rates up in Misamis Occ.

OZAMIZ CITY—Water rates in Misamis Occidental have gone up by P30 effective Oct. 1, the fourth increase in six years.

With the increase, a minimum consumption of 10 cubic meters per month now costs P220 from its September level of P190.

Ferdinand Revelo, general manager of the Misamis Occidental Water District (MOWD), said the rate increase was covered by a resolution from the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), the government agency that regulates the operation of water districts nationwide.

He said MOWD badly needed fresh funds so it could pay the interest and amortization of its P35 million loan from the LWUA.

Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

Minister's killer facing homicide raps

COTABATO CITY—Police authorities in Kidapawan City have filed homicide charges against the confessed killer of a Jesus is Lord Movement minister last week.

Ronnie Arong, of Barangay Perez and active member of the JIL Movement, surrendered to police, claiming his conscience had been bothering him.

He owned up to the Oct. 26 killing of JIL minister Martin Ambong but he declined to say what pushed him to commit the crime.

Ambong's body, which had multiple stab wounds, was found inside the JIL retreat house in Kidapawan City.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

3 arrested for theft in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Three men were arrested shortly after they reportedly broke into the house of a wealthy businessman in a subdivision in Sta. Rosa City on Thursday.

Supt. Sergio Dimandal, spokesperson of the Calabarzon police, said police confiscated from the suspects a 9-mm pistol, several picklocks, knives and a motorcycle allegedly used in the nefarious activity.

Dimandal said the three were members of a local Akyat Bahay syndicate whose modus operandi was to ransack houses left by their occupants.

The suspects are detained at the Sta. Rosa police jail while cases of robbery, illegal possession of firearms and violation of the election gun ban are being prepared against them. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Truck falls off Batangas bridge; 1 killed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A driver was killed while two agents of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) based here were seriously hurt when the truck they were riding in fell off a bridge in San Jose, Batangas, on Oct. 31.

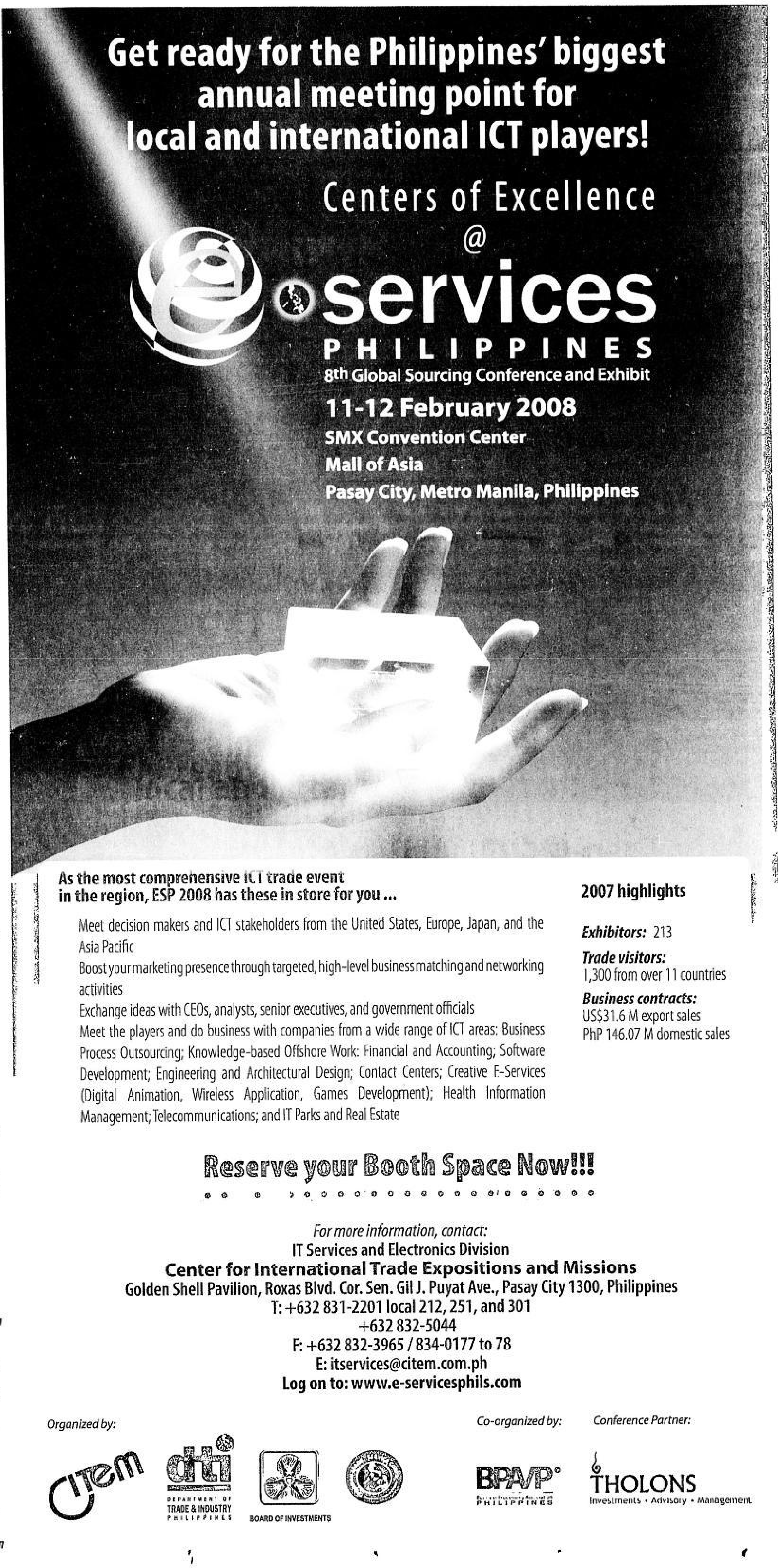
Batangas police director Senior Supt. David Quimio identified the lone fatality as Benerando David, 37, of Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City.

Injured were PO3 Edwin Castor, a member of the CIDG-Calabarzon, and Rommel Piamonte, a CIDG civilian agent.

Quimio said David was trapped between the crushed metal part of the truck and died on the spot.

It took more than two hours before firemen and rescuers plucked Castor and Piamonte out of the vehicle, he said.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon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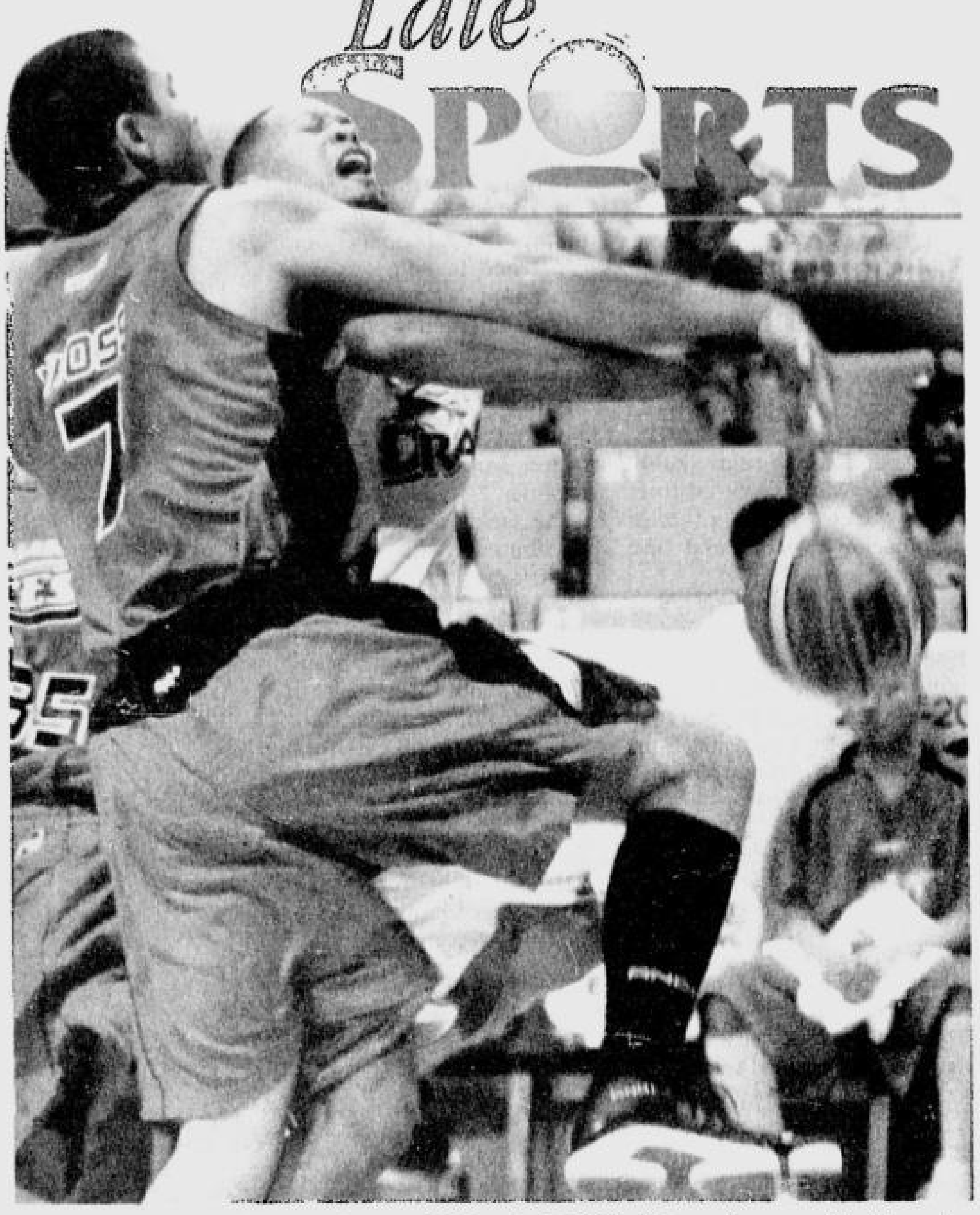


ALASKA Aces' Sonny Thoss makes sure Welcoat's Rob Wainright won't escape his defense in yesterday's PBA game at the Cuneta Astrodome. RYAN LIM

Tempers flare as Giants rout Ginebra Kings

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
4:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Sta. Lucia
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

THE PUREFOODS TJ GIANTS SURVIVED a brutal encounter against the Barangay Ginebra Kings before running away with a 103-76 victory to keep their unblemished record in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Peter June Simon scored most of his 27 points in the final half to rip the game wide open after the Giants endured several technical fouls, an ejection and a fistfight brought about by several let-go plays.

Brandon Cablay of Purefoods and Ronald Tubid of Ginebra tangled on the floor following a wayward elbow that hit Cablay on the kisser with the Giants ahead, 86-59, with eight minutes remaining in the third period.

Officials and players from both sides intervened to stop the melee, which could fetch a slew of suspensions and fines.

With a fifth straight triumph, Purefoods eclipsed its previous record of winning the first four games of the conference accomplished 16 years ago when most of the Giants were still learning the fundamentals of the game.

"It's nice to be a part of history but there's no reason for us to be jubilant," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "There's still so much to be done to get us to the championship."

The Kings, who lost their fourth straight for 1-4 record, lost Mark Macapagal, who was ejected for complaining excessively following a non-call by the referees late in the third.

Earlier, the Alaska Aces pounced on the sluggish Nic Belasco and the rest of the Welcoat Dragons to carve out a methodical 73-60 win.

Belasco came up with his worst output so far against his former team, tallying only four points on 1-of-8 shooting.

First Game

ALASKA 73—Miller 14, Ferriols 11, Dela Cruz 9, Carlaso 8, Bono 6, Quinahan 6, Hugnatan 6, Cortez 6, Thoss 3, Capus 2, Cabatu 2.

WELCOAT 60—Wainwright 18, De Vance 11, Reyes 11, Lopez 7, Arana 6, Belasco 4, Dulay 3, Ibanes 0, Baguion 0, Sta. Maria 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 15-11, 43-33, 65-51, 73-60.

Second Game

PUREFOODS 103—Simon 27, Adducul 16, Yap 13, Raymundo 8, Cablay 7, Lanete 6, Sanz 5, Salvador 5, Larong 4, Pingris 4, Yap 4, Yee 4.

GINEBRA 76—Tubid 11, Reavis 10, Holper 8, Artadi 8, Salvacion 8, Aquino 7, Helterbrand 7, Escalona 6, Macapagal 6, Mamaril 5, Lao 0.

Quarters: 25-19, 51-30, 77-53, 103-76.

Tigresses enter semis; Lyceum remains in hunt

GAMES TOMORROW *(The Arena)*
3 p.m.—FEU vs SSC
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS CLAIMED the third semifinal seat yesterday, beating stubborn Adamson, 25-15, 17-25, 25-18, 25-23, in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The first conference champion's 1-2 punch Venus Bernal and Mary Jean Balse tossed in 17 and 16 points, respectively, as the Tigresses joined the San Sebastian Lady Stags and Ateneo Lady Eagles in the carryover semifinals with their 4-1 slate.

Adamson dropped to 3-3, failing for the second straight game to make the semis outright.

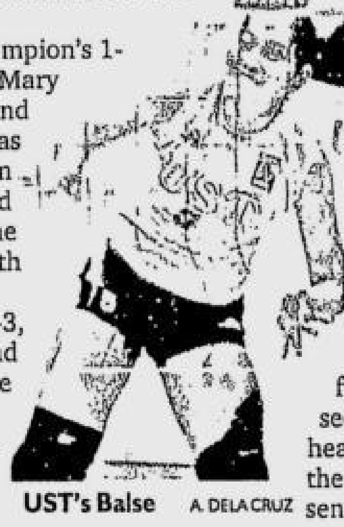
Lyceum, needing a victory to stay in the hunt, nipped also-ran Letran in the opener, 6-25, 25-20, 25-17, 23-25, 15-13.

It was only the Lady Pirates' second victory in six games but it kept them in the race for one of the two remaining semis berths.

For Lyceum to force at least a playoff for the last finals seat, it must beat UST in its final elimination assignment on Friday, Nov. 9, and hope that Adamson drops its final match to La Salle on Nov. 13.

An automatic semis seat also awaits the Lady Pirates if they beat the Tigresses and the Lady Archers lose at least two of their last three matches.

The Lady Pirates recovered from a slow start by taking the second and third sets and appeared headed for a trouble-free win until the Lady Knights fought back to send the match into a deciding set.



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Philippines Hosts Cities Alliance Forum

Participants from member countries and organizations, local government units, national government agencies, non-government organizations and peoples' organizations will gather in Manila for the 8th Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum hosted by the Philippines through the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

The Forum is the Cities Alliance's venue for engaging city practitioners, national government representatives, development partners and the research community to discuss the challenges and opportunities of an urbanizing world.

This year, the Forum centers on the theme "Leveraging Resources for Liveable Cities".

The three-day event kicks off with a dinner-reception at the Malacañang Palace on November 5 hosted by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Opening Ceremonies at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila will be preceded by the CA members' site visits to housing projects in Muntinlupa City, Marikina City, and Cabuyao, Laguna.

The Forum proper will focus on three main topics: the City Development Strategies Program (CDS), Mainstreaming Access to Financing for Local Authorities and Stakeholders for Urban Development and Slum Upgrading, and Institutionalizing Collaboration and Leveraging Mechanisms.

Vice President Noli De Castro, chairman of the HUDCC, said the Forum provides a great opportunity for Philippine cities and people's organizations to link up with prospective development partners.

"This event should be a very fruitful one, especially for the leaders of our local government units, who stand to gain valuable knowledge on how to access resources for development, and how best to use these to improve our cites and uplift the lives of the poor," he said.

The resolutions raised from the forums, to be called the Manila Declaration, will be presented by the Vice President.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Cities Alliance, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the UN-Habitat and the League of Cities of the Philippines.

The Cities Alliance is a global coalition of cities and their development partners committed to scaling up successful approaches to poverty reduction. The alliance supports, through grants, such initiatives as the City Development Strategies (CDS), citywide and nationwide slum upgrading, in accordance with its Cities Without Slums action plan, and sustainable financing facilities for cities.

For more information, visit www.citiesalliance.org.

MESSAGES

Warmest welcome to the participants in the 2007 Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum hosted by the Philippines.

This event comes at an opportune time for our country, as the Philippine government steps up its efforts to bring shelter security, decent housing, and sustainable lielihood to the Filipino poor, especially in the urban areas.

As the country's fiscal condition continues to improve, we are redoubling our efforts to fight poverty and uplift the lives of the Filipino masses, that they too can reap the benfits of our economic growth. Recently, we have made significant headway in addressing the problem of homelessness by providing better homes to thousands of slum dwellers.

This forum is a rich opportunity to share knowledge and resources among Alliance members and development partners to help us move further toward completely transforming slums into livable communities, and member [illegible] poor into more fulfilled and productive members [illegible] certainly eager to learn from the experiences of oth[illegible] hare our own with them.

May you have a fruitful gathering. Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-AROYO

The Philippines takes pride in being a member of the Cities Alliance with the League of Cities of the Philippines as one of the key partners together with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the Department of the Interior and Local Government. As such, we are honored to host this year's Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum on November 5-7, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza-Galleria in Pasig City.

The League of Cities of the Philippines has been privileged that the Cities Alliance, through the City Development Strategies (CDS) project, continues to be one of our strategic partners in scaling up successful approaches to poverty reduction. The CDS project has been expanded to almost 70 cities nationwide, with far-reaching results on poverty reduction, local economic development and good governance. With this, we extend our deepest appreciation to the Cities Alliance for their continuing support to Philippine cities

With the theme: Leveraging Resources for Liveable Cities, we are eager to share the unique examples of our cities on good governance, resource mobilization, and other innovative financing mechanisms for their projects on urban development and slum upgrading. The experiences of the Cities of Calbayog, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Naga, Iloilo, together with our colleagues from other parts of the world, will bring to fore the transformations that have taken place through the support of Cities Alliance. At the same time, we also look forward to learning from the international speakers on how they faced similar issued in their cities

We are optimistic that this Forum will provide a fertile ground for discussion and policy formulation towards the creation of liveable cities throughout the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.
President
League of Cities of the Philippines

[illegible] my pleasure to welcome delegates [illegible] of the Cities Alliance. I am delighted [illegible] in Manila where we have been hon[illegible] have received from President Glorio Arroyo.

As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, global issues become increasingly visible in towns and cities of all sizes: poverty, social exclusion, citizenship, access to land, the provision of essential services, human safety and security, the impact of climate change, and damage to the urban environment.

More frequently, and often more effectively, these challenges are being managed at the local level. This is why the World Bank, in partnership with the Cities Alliance, believes that well-governed towns and cities have a prominent role to play as part of any solution. Successful cities can drive the national economy, protect the environment, and promote opportunities for all citizens.

This meeting provides a welcome opportunity for the World Bank and its partners in the Cities Alliance to reinforce our collective commitment to sustainable, efficient, and inclusive cities, and to recognize the accomplishments of our partners in the Philippines. I wish you all a very successful Policy Forum.

Katherine Sierra,
Vice President, Sustainable Development
The World Bank

The Philippines is pleased and honored to be given the opportunity to host this year's Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum. We welcome this event not just as a chance to demonstrate our Filipino hospitality to our guests but, more importantly, as a venue for gaining greater support from the Alliance's members for the development efforts of our cities.

The experience of a growing a number of Philippine cities in implementing successful programs to address the problems associated with rapid urbanization is showing us the big difference that good leadership can make when combined with the participation of the people and the strong support of the right partners.

It is my hope that our local leaders will make the most of this forum as an opportunity to learn more about the proven strategies and the options that are open to them, and to establish ties with potential partners. This can be a good turning point for many of our cities towards the path to livability, sustainable growth and a better life for all their citizens.

Above all, I hope this will inspire Filipinos to realize that progress is achievable in our cities and in our entire country, if we can get our acts together.

Mabuhay!

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO
Chairman

Warm greetings to al[illegible] partners in the Philippines!

The Cities Alliance [illegible] Forum adopts the theme "Leveraging Resources for Livable Citie[illegible] to highlight the key role of cities in the strategic management of the world's resources We are witnessing the fastest growth of urban populations yet known as we are now at the dawn of a new urban era with half of humanity already living in towns and cities. It is projected that, by 2030, that figure will rise to two-thirds. Yet, a feature of our new urban age is that the global number of slum dwellers is now set this year to top the 1 billion mark. In many cities, including our host country of this event, the Philippines, slum dwellers and informal settlers comprise as much as 40% - 50% of the population. This reality poses a daunting challenge for urban governance as it impacts on the carrying capacity of cities and urbanizing towns to provide for basic services.

Just a month ago on October 1, the World Habitat Day celebration focused on the theme "A Safe City is a Just City" in order to raise awareness and encourage reflection on the mounting threats to urban safety and social justice, particularly urban crime and violence, forced eviction and insecurity of tenure, as well as natural and human-made disasters. By ensuring that our cities are safe and secure, we are ensuring a good quality of life and [illegible]um productivity of our people, their properties and publi[illegible] livable cities are safe and just cities

The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) supports this forum as a venue where all stakeholders in the urban and shelter sector could share experiences and knowledge on how to face the exciting challenges of our rapidly urbanizing world. We will continue to work with our partners in the Cities Alliance as well as governments and pertinent organizations in answering the call of making our cities livable through the strategic leveraging of our individual and collective resources.

Inga Klovby, UN-HABITAT Deputy Executive Director

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The Homeless as a Catalyst for Urban Development

The Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines is proving that the poor can be agents of change in their cities by building up their own resources and, in the process, gaining the leverage to access more.

When Sonia Cadornigara's family, along with some 600 others, faced the grim prospect of being evicted from their homes in Iloilo City—built on land that they did not own—they had two choices: fight it out in court with the person claiming ownership of the land, or start looking for a new place.

With the landowner having more resources than the mostly low-income families for a long court battle, and few of them having the means to buy their own land, they sought another solution.

"That's when we started organizing ourselves," she says. With the help of the Vincentian Missionaries Social Development Foundation, they formed a community association with the objective of building up their own resources through a daily savings program.

At that time a community savings program was already in place in Payatas, Quezon City, where the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines (HPFP) traces its roots. "I was sent there to look at how the families are saving. This is not excess money, because the poor don't have that. This is money that they set aside to be mobilized for housing, livelihood and other needs," Sonia recalls.

Armed with the knowledge and inspiration gained from the organized scavenger communities of Payatas, she went back to Iloilo to help set up their own savings program.

Eventually, they saved up enough funds to buy their own land—a foreclosed property, which they acquired directly from the Bank of Philippine Islands. They were no longer homeless.

That was just the beginning. Sonia, who is now HPFP Regional Coordinator for the Visayas and Board Member of the Slum Dwellers International—a network of urban poor associations in 27 countries—has since been involved in the Federations' various initiatives in different cities, all rooted in its savings program.

"We start with savings, then we engage the government," she says. Backed by their own resources and the experience from self-initiated projects, the Federation's members have more leverage in soliciting the assistance of the local government.

"We need the government, but at the start we do what we can. This way, they can't just dismiss us and say we are just like any other group that wants to access funds from the government. Our approach is, we have bought our land, can you help us with the basic services? This is better than asking your mayor for land and houses," she says.

This approach of negotiation instead of confrontation has given Sonia's group a favorable standing with the Iloilo City government, as is the case in other cities where the mayor is open to partnerships with people's organizations. "We become part of the city's structure."

Having their own resources also opens doors for the Federation to access more, whether in the form of funding or assistance from other sectors. The organization's proven commitment earns for it the trust of donor organizations and other groups.

A new project to be undertaken in Iloilo under the Community-Led Infrastructure Finance Facility (CLIFF) of the Cities Alliance exemplifies this.

"Through the Slum Dwellers International, we were able to access funds of the Cities Alliance (under CLIFF) for a housing project," Sonia says. The beneficiaries are informal settlers along the Iloilo river who will be affected by the city's foreign-funded flood control project. The land is being provided by the government, while development of the relocation site is included in the grant agreement for the flood-control project. The CLIFF funds will be used for housing, with each family getting a P150,000 loan.

It's a community-led process spearheaded by the Federation, typical of all its projects. Every detail—from the design of the houses, the interest rate, the repayment terms—is discussed. The painstaking process ensures that the beneficiaries will be happy with the project once it begins.

Vice President Noli De Castro himself saw the Federation at work in the relocation of the informal settlers from North Rail. "The HPFP has been a big help in organizing the settlers and 'selling' the very idea of relocation, including the fact that they have to start paying amortizations after living for free in their homes along the railroad tracks," he recalls.

"While other groups were feeding on the apprehensions of the affected families and sowing discord, the HPFP helped them organize in order to secure the best possible terms for their relocation. Their attitude of cooperation and negotiation instead of condemnation helped us, and certainly helped those families," he adds.

By giving poor communities the capacity to actually contribute to the development process, the Federation is also promoting a deeper change—instilling a sense of dignity and responsibility in them.

For the HPFP, the poor can—and should—start things on their own instead of blaming the government, or waiting for it to come around. Their point of view is, it would be good if the government could provide the needs of the poor, but for those things that it cannot do immediately for any reason, the poor themselves have to act. "If your community is flooded, you can't wait for the government to provide a drainage system. It could take too long, and meanwhile you are the one who suffers every time it rains. Through savings, you can do it yourself," says Sonia.

In this way, the poor have a greater hand in determining not just their own future, but their city's as well. "We can do it if we want to, we just have to combine our energies."

Philippines Hosts Cities Alliance Forum

ın member countries and organiza- ıent units, national government ment organizations and peo- vill ather in Manila for the ou Policy Forum hosted by ,h the Housing and Urban De- ating Council (HUDCC).

Alliance's venue for en .... national government rep- opment partners and the re- discuss the challenges and urbanizing world.

enters on the theme Lev veable Cities"

kicks off with a dinner-recep ñang Palace on November Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

at the Crowne Plaza Ga eded by the CA member ts in Muntinlu Laguna.

iocus on three main topics: Strategies Program (CDS), to Financing for Local Au- thorı :eholders for Urban Development and lu ipgı ding, and Institutionalizing Col- lab and eraging Mechanisms.

Vice President Noli De Castro, chairman of the HUDCC, said the Forum provides a great opportunity for Philippine cities and people's organizations to link up with prospective development partners.

This event ould be fruitful one, especially for ders local government units, who able knowledge on how to acce sourc or development, and how best to us these mprove our cites and uplift the live the poo he said.

The resolutic a ron the forums, to be called the Manila tion will be presented by the Vice Presiden

The forum is red by the Cities Alliance, the World Bank, an Development Bank, the UN-Habitat and ague of Cities of the Philip-

Alliance gl coalition of cities velopment ners committed to ful hes to poverty re- t, through grants, such evelopment Strategies (CDS), vide slum upgrading, in accordanc tie Without Slums action plan, and sustainable financing facilities for cities.

Fc more informatio visit www.citiesalliance.org.

MESSAGES

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ored to be given the op- Cities Alliance Public Policy just as a chance to dem- our guests but, more im- ng greater support from the development efforts of our

umber of Philippine cities in gra to address the prob zation is showing us the can make when com people and the strong

will make the most of more about the proven open to them, and to es This can be a good turn wards the path to livability life for all their citizens.

os to realize that in our entire cour

ORIA MACAPAGAL

CI ESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO

pines

he theme "Leveraging key role of cities in the stra- We are witnessing the fast- own as we are now at the dawn anity already living in towns and at figure will rise to two-thirds. Yet, at the global number of slum dwell- illion mark In many cities, includ- Philippines, slum dwellers and in- 50% of the population. This urban governance as it impacts urbanizing towns to provide for

World Habitat Day celebration fo- Just City" in order to raise aware- mounting threats to urban safety me and violence, forced eviction l and human-made disasters. ar ensuring a good arties

IABI up he urban and n how to face We will continue ll as governments making our cities liv- l and collective re-

ITAT Deputy Executive Director

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The Homeless as a Catalyst for Urban Development

The Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines is proving that the poor can be agents of change in their cities by building up their own resources and, in the process, gaining the leverage to access more.

When Sonia Cadornigara's family, along with some 600 others, faced the grim prospect of being evicted from their homes in Iloilo City—built on land that they did not own—they had two choices: fight it out in court with the person claiming ownership of the land, or start looking for a new place.

With the landowner having more resources than the mostly low-income families for a long court battle, and few of them having the means to buy their own land, they sought another solution.

"That's when we started organizing ourselves," she says. With the help of the Vincentian Missionaries Social Development Foundation, they formed a community association with the objective of building up their own resources through a daily savings program.

At that time a community savings program was already in place in Payatas, Quezon City, where the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines (HPFP) traces its roots. "I was sent there to look at how the families are saving. This is not excess money, because the poor don't have that. This is money that they set aside to be mobilized for housing, livelihood and other needs," Sonia recalls.

Armed with the knowledge and inspiration gained from the organized scavenger communities of Payatas, she went back to Iloilo to help set up their own savings program.

Eventually, they saved up enough funds to buy thei own lanc foreclosed property, which they acquired directly from the Bank of Philippine Islands. They were no longer homeless.

That was just the beginning. Sonia, who is now HPFP Regional Coordinator for the Visayas and Board Member of the Slum Dwellers International—a network of urban poor associations in 27 countries—has since been involved in the Federations various initiatives in different cities all rooted i ings program.

"We start with savings, then we engage the government," she says. Backed by their own resources and the experience from self-initiated projects, the Federation's members have more leverage in soliciting the assistance of the local government.

"We need the government, but at the star hat we ca. This way, they can't just dismis us nd say we ist like any other group that wants to access funds from the gove ent. Our approach is, we have bought our land heln us with the basic services? This is better than and nd houses," she says.

This approach of negotiation instea onfr tation as given Sonia's group a favorable standing with City government as is the case in other cities where the mayor ope to partnerships with people's organizations We becom part of the city's structure."

Having their own reso es als Federation to access more, whether in the form sistance from other sectors. The ation's proven for it the trust of donor c ns and oth

A new project Commu ity ed Infrastructure Citi Alli plifies this.

"Through the Slum Dwellers International, we were able to access funds of the Cities Alliance (und CLIFF) for a housing project," Sonia says. The ben iarie informal settlers along the Iloilo river who will be d foreign-funded flood control project. The land is r overnment while development of the relocati grant agreement for the flood-control proje he will be used for housing, with each family gettin

It's a community-led pro y the Federation, typical of all its projects. Every detail- design of the houses, the interest rate, the repayment term cussed. The painstaking process ensures that the ben happy with the project once it begins.

Vice President Noli De Castr hims ion at work in the relocation of the inform The HPFP has been a big help in organi elling' the very idea of relocation ding th paying amortizations afte ilroad tracks he recalls.

"While other groups were feeding o appre ensions of the affected families and sowing discord the HPFP helped them organize in order to secure the best possible terms for their relocation. Their attitude of cooperation and negotiation instead of condemnation helped us, and certainly helped th e fa

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In this way, the poor have a greate nd of just thei own future, but their city, as wel want to, we just have to combine our energies

ILD BANK

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

SMART
BROADBANDING GAWAD KALINGA COMMUNITIES
WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

From Building Homes to Creating Homepages

Under the Broadbanding GK Communities project of SMART, the 14 regional centers of Gawad Kalinga will be connected to its head office in Mandaluyong via SMART's wireless broadband service, Smart Bro.

This is the initial phase of a project to connect GK communities all over the country to each other and to the world. Linked through high-speed Internet, these communities will have access to online information and education services and be able to communicate with their partners here and abroad through e-mail, chat, webcam and other broadband services. Eventually, this will assist GK communities in undertaking various self-help projects including education and health programs, disaster-preparedness and livelihood projects.

As GK villages become connected, the word "home" takes a new meaning for its residents as they create home pages and open windows of opportunities. These online communities will overcome barriers and strengthen the bayanihan spirit that is Gawad Kalinga.

BE A GK VOLUNTEER.

Text GK<space>REG<space>NAME/ADDRESS/BDAY(mmddyy) and send to 71745(717GK)
(Ex: GK REG KAT COSTAS/123 PASEO DE ROXAS ST. MAKATI CITY/012186)
or register online at www.gk1world.net

SMART GAWAD KALINGA
Nagkakaisa sa serbisyong tunay

A PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

"As GK communities become connected to the rest of the world, new opportunities will arise for our countrymen. Dahil dito, kami sa Gawad Kalinga ay natutuwang ipagpatuloy ang pakikipagbayanihan sa SMART."

Tony Meloto, GK Builder

"With GK communities broadbanded, it becomes easier for them to connect to each other, to their partners, volunteers here and overseas. This is bayanihan online."

Napoleon L. Nazareno, President & CEO, PLDT and SMART

A plus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Kidnap suspect to cops: Hunger made me do it

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE TOOK INTO CUSTODY A WOMAN who tried to kidnap a young boy who was with his father inside a stadium in Quezon City yesterday morning.

The boy's father, Nestor Carlos, a resident of Cluster 25, Barangay Tatalon, said the incident happened while he and his 5-year-old son, John Benedict, were jogging inside the Amoranto Stadium on Roces Avenue at 7 a.m.

Carlos said that when his son stopped to tie his shoelaces, he kept on jogging, thinking John Benedict would soon catch up with him.

Moments later, Carlos realized that his son was still not beside him and was nowhere to be seen on the jogging path.

He immediately alerted the security guards in the stadium who started looking for John Benedict.

Not long after, a woman was spotted near the main gate of the establishment. She was carrying the boy who was later returned to his father.

The woman was brought to the Quezon City Police District Station 10 where she identified herself as Yolanda Lagurovenecia, 46, a resident of Sta. Ana, Manila.

Asked why she took the boy, Lagurovenecia told the INQUIRER that she wanted to sell him to make some money. She added that she was very hungry and she had to do something to be able to buy some food.

The suspect is detained at the QCPD-PS 10 for further investigation. Authorities said they would have her checked to determine her mental state.

If proven to be mentally unbalanced, she would be placed in a mental health institution. Otherwise, she would be charged with attempted abduction of a minor, the police added.

FURRY VISITOR

RODEL ROTONI

A group of women takes no notice of a cat which is resting on a tombstone a few meters away from them at the Himlayang Pilipino in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

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Cebu Corporate Branch: (32)255-4131

BPI to WORLD
BACK-TO-BACK AWARDS

Shown in photo are SVP Subin Subaiah - Bank of America Head - Global Treasury Services Financial Institutions, Asia and SVP Eduardo Jose JR - Head of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) - Financial Institutions - CBD2.

Shown in photo from left to right are Mr. Gerard Sheridan - Managing Director and Regional Manager for Global Payments and Trade Services of Bank of New York, Ms. Ivy Maria de Guzman - Market Head of BPI Financial Institutions - CBD, Mr. Frank Di Lorenzo - Managing Director for Global Payments Services of Bank of New York and Ms. Corazon S. Tumbocon - VP / Head of BPI Treasury Operations.

On two different occasions, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) was hailed by two prestigious International Financial Institutions, namely the Bank of America as the **Best Payments Partner Bank in the Philippines** and the Bank of New York as the **Outstanding Payment Formatting and Straight-Through Rate Settlement Bank for all Foreign Outward Payments Transactions.**

BPI achieved a remarkable Straight Through Process (STP) rate of 99.02% with Bank of America and 97% with Bank of New York for the full year of 2006. This is above the 90% standard rate and indicates BPI's very high level of accuracy in formatting payments, says Gerard Sheridan, managing director and regional manager for Global Payments and Trade Services of the Bank of New York. BPI has been awarded by Bank of America for the fourth consecutive year and the latter for the third consecutive year.

These awards were given based on STP rates via volume processed that signifies BPI's leadership at the forefront of innovative services as it recently unveiled the BPI TO WORLD Money Transfer the fast and convenient way to effect payments worldwide ■

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BPI
We'll take you farther.

Lim offers free rehab to drug users in Manila

By Allison W. Lopez

DRUG DEPENDENTS FROM Manila's slums can get a new lease on life with the opening of a rehabilitation center in Sta. Cruz today.

Mayor Alfredo Lim will inaugurate the new Manila Treatment and Rehabilitation Center inside the North Cemetery complex at the corner of Dimasalang Extension and Blumentritt Street.

The center will provide free treatment to drug users. Private rehabilitation facilities, on the other hand, charge as much as P40,000 to P50,000 per patient.

According to Lim, drug addicts are victims who need to be rehabilitated to allow them to return to the mainstream of society.

"We will run after the drug pushers and dealers but not the users because they are only victims who need help," he stressed.

City administrator Jesus Mari Marzan said that Lim had opened a drug rehab center during his term but this was shut down by his successor who converted the facility into an activity center.

The old drug rehab center, he added, had cured thousands of residents and even nonresidents who were addicted to illegal drugs, all free of charge.

The new center will accommodate only male patients for now.

Dr. Enrique Samonte will head the all-male team of nurses and specialists who will provide comprehensive rehabilitation services using multidisciplinary techniques.

The center aims to make its patients drug-free to enable them to rejoin their community and engage in productive activities.

City health officer Marie Lorraine M. Sanchez said the center is part of the city government's campaign against illegal drugs.

"The mayor's crusade is multifaceted—from law enforcement, judicial prosecution to treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse, for which the Manila Treatment and Rehabilitation Center is being established," she said.

GATE
OPEN 6.00AM
CLOSE 4.00PM

APPEAL TO OPEN QC BRIDGE JOAN BONDOC

Ramon B. Zamuco Sr. of Delta Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City writes: "A concrete bridge was constructed years back by the city government on Taurus Street, Carmel V Subdivision to interconnect Barangay Tandang Sora and Barangay Sauyo. The project is laudable as it would cut travel time and conserve the use of fuel. However, the bridge is open only at certain hours to the detriment of motorists who use the bridge as a shortcut route. May we appeal to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr, through the city engineer's office, to permanently open this bridge in accordance with the existing ordinances. Thank you."

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SORSOGON
Sorsogon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Nov. 5, 2007

The Provincial Government of Sorsogon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites interested suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following projects:

Project Description	Source of Fund	ABC
1. Purchase and Delivery of Hospital Apparels and Equipment, etc. Delivery Period: 20 Days Contract Duration: 25 Calendar Days	FY-2007 Budget (RA9401)	Php 20,000,000.00

x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids shall use a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The completed schedule of activities is listed as follows: (Single stage bidding)

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 12–14, 2007 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 16, 2007 / 2:00 P.M. Venue: BAC-PGSO Office
3. Receipt & Opening of Bids	Nov. 29, 2007 / 2:00 P.M. Venue: BAC-PGSO Office

Bid Documents will be available only to the bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Php 7,500.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Sorsogon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) OSCAR F. FIRMANES
BAC Chairman

(PDI – November 5, 2007)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Imported Steaming Coal to NPC Plants and the Independent Power Producers
BATCH I – III (CY 2008)

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance:

BATCH I

PLANT(S)	VOLUME, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php/Lot	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date, Time and Venue
SUAL	10 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Regular / Spot)	385,385,000.00	November 12, 2007 9:00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	November 27, 2007 9:00 A.M. Retirees Action Center (SOLARIUM)
PAGBILAO	6 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Performance / Spot	329,329,000.00		
NAGA-CEBU	* 150,000MT (Imported/LT Year 1)	711,480,000.00		

Forex Php 49.00 = 1US$

BATCH II

PLANT(S)	VOLUME, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php/Lot	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date, Time and Venue
SUAL	* 8 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Regular / LT Year 1)	385,385,000.00	November 12, 2007 9.00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	November 28, 2007 9.00 A.M. Pahiyas Room
PAGBILAO	6 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Performance / High GCV)	336,336,000.00		

Forex Php 49.00 = 1US$

BATCH III

PLANT(S)	VOLUME, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php/Lot	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date, Time and Venue
SUAL	2 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Trial Shipment)	318,818,500.00	November 12, 2007 9:00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	November 29, 2007 9:00 A.M. Peñafrancia Room
PAGBILAO	6 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Blending / Spot)	315,315,000.00		

Forex Php 49.00 = 1US$

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source per plant per Batch, either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before November 12, 2007 for evaluation and issuance of Class A certification. **Pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 22-2006, prospective bidders should register with PhilGEPS and secure the corresponding Certificate of Registration.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
8. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (**www.napocor.gov.ph**) and DBM (**www.procurementservice.net.com**) websites.

(Sgd.) JUAN CARLOS J. GUADARRAMA
Vice President
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 5, 2007)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. #221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Davao City Water District*, with the Approved Budget for 2007, intends to apply the sum *(see schedule under 2)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from ACCREDITED & ELIGIBLE BIDDERS for the following:

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	BID SECURITY (1% of ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	12,050 PCS. – 1/2" WATER METERS	P 14,942,000.00	P 149,420.00	4,000.00
2	VARIOUS SIZES OF BRASS FITTINGS	2,790,000.00	27,900.00	2,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount stated in item no. 2. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Deadline for the purchase of bid documents shall be on November 13, 2007
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **NOVEMBER 14, 2007, @ 9:00 A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***10:00 A.M. on November 26, 2007.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security*** in the form of *Cash or Manager's check* in the amount stated in item no. 2. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at the ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*** on the following schedule

PACKAGE No.	BIDDING SCHEDULE, TIME & DATE
1 & 2	NOVEMBER 26, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City

Tel. No.	221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add	dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No.	224-5392
Website	www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON
BAC-A Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 5, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective consultants to apply for eligibility and short-listing and if found eligible and short-listed, to bid for the One (1) lot – **Supply, delivery, installation, configuration, testing and implementation of a BSP Employee Service System (BESS) per BSP's Request for Proposal.**

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this project requirement is P30 Million.

BESS is an employee portal designed to provide a single point of access to information and processes. It is aimed at reducing administrative overheads and freeing human resources and other administrative staff for more strategic activities, improved data integrity, speed-up of HR, administrative and other personnel related transactions. The system will be implemented bank wide and is expected to integrate many of the human resource business processes and provide employees and officials better data visibility/accessibility. The BSP requires a solution that is easy to implement, very accessible, reliable, secure and compliant with e-commerce standards.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultants shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Short-listing of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria:

1) The prospective consultant has implemented one (1) successfully operating Employee Self-Service system from Y2000 to present. The following details should be provided:
    a) Name of the organization;
    b) Contract amount and duration;
    c) Role/s undertaken by the prospective consultant at the reference site,
    d) Customer's contact names, address and phone numbers/e-mail address, and
    e) Hardware and software solution implemented
2) The prospective consultant shall submit a certificate of satisfactory performance for completed contract from the client.
3) The prospective consultant shall submit a Statement on the Technical Competence of its Key Staff, as well as their respective curriculum vitae which includes the following information:
    a) Primary and secondary areas of expertise;
    b) Educational attainment;
    c) IT-related training; and
    d) System projects handled and type of involvement

In case of joint venture, the BSP intends to contract with a single entity. Bidders as the prime contractors shall take full responsibility for all sub-contracted services and must, in their eligibility documents, include sufficient and relevant information on joint venture partners

The BAC shall draw up the short-list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intents and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provision of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The list of eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat from 12 to 29 NOVEMBER 2007 upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00. The deadline for the submission of the eligibility documents shall be on 18 DECEMBER 2007 at 2:00 P.M. (Philippine Time).

Bid documents will be available only to short-listed bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P15,000.00 to the BSP Cashier and upon signing a Confidentiality Agreement.

The BSP shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the solution and the financial bid (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 5, 2007)

METRO

Citizen's call

0918-8985566

Unfinished project

THE SIDEWALK rehabilitation project on Quirino Avenue Extension, particularly the stretch from Peñafrancia Street to Plaza Dilao in Paco, Manila, has been left unfinished for months now. Affected residents have been forced to cover some of the empty brick beds themselves since these are full of water whenever it rains, making the sidewalks impassable. Who can take care of this problem?

FONZY, 21, Paco, Manila

Steel posts for gaps

STEEL posts should be installed between the center islands at Kalayaan Avenue in Quezon City to prevent tricycles from passing through the gaps between the structures. These should be used only by pedestrians. Trikes that pass through the gaps can cause accidents since they block passing vehicles.

VIC, 42, Quezon City

Underpass traffic aides

TRAFFIC enforcers should always be around to assist pedestrians when crossing the underpass at Aurora Boulevard and Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. Crossing the underpass here is always a risky business.

LEAH NEMIS, 18, Quezon City

Brighter colors

IT MIGHT be safer for the Pasig City police to wear bright or light-colored uniforms instead of dark blue so motorists can see them better at night and yellow or white uniforms during the rainy season.

DR. JUERGEN SCHOEFER, 40, Pasig City

DID YOU KNOW

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Law building (Malcolm Hall) was named after George Arthur Malcolm, founder and first dean of the college.

Malcolm was born on Nov. 5, 1881, in Michigan, USA. After getting his law degree, he went to the Philippines and stayed here for 33 years. In 1911, he established the first English language law school in the Philippines which eventually became the UP College of Law.

Malcolm was later appointed associate justice of the Philippine Supreme Court. He died in 1961 in California.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL – CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS
Nangka, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte
Tel. Nos. (063) 836-0098 / 0097 / 0104
Fax No. (063) 225-9877

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL – CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract.

Project 1

Name of Contract	**Completion of Philippine Science High School-Central Mindanao Campus Academic Building I**
Location	**Nangka, Balo-I, Lanao del Norte**
Brief Description	**Completion of the 3-storey Academic Building**
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**Fifteen Million One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Two Pesos & 00/100 (P15,164,422.00)**
Contract Duration	**Nine (9) months**

Project 2

Name of Contract	**Completion of Philippine Science High School-Central Mindanao Campus Dormitory Building I**
Location	**Nangka, Balo-I, Lanao del Norte**
Brief Description	**Completion of the 3-storey Dormitory Building**
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**Fifteen Million Two Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Two Pesos & 00/100 (P15,242,842.00)**
Contract Duration	**Nine (9) months**

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. *The BAC will evaluate the contractors' proposal per project basis.* The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	November 5-11, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	November 12-18, 2007 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 19, 2007 up to 9.00 a.m. only
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 19, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 20-26, 2007 from 9.00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
6. Pre-bid Conference	November 27, 2007, 9.00 a.m.
7. Submission of Bidding Documents	December 10, 2007 up to 10:00 a.m. only
8. Opening of Bid Documents	December 10, 2007, 1.00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL – CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS Finance Office in Nangka, Balo-I, Lanao del Norte upon their ***submission of an LOI, presentation of their PCAB license and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00)*** per project to the PSHS-CMC Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon ***payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos & 00/100 (P5,000.00) per project*** to the PSHS-CMC Cashier

The PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL – CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by,
(Sgd.) CARLITO C. LARIOSA
BAC Chairman

Noted by
(Sgd.) CIRIACO M. GILLERA, Ph.D.
Campus Director

(PDI–Nov. 5, 2007)

STUDENTS get ready for an "out-of-this-world" show at the Planetarium. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Starry, starry day at the Planetarium

By Allison W. Lopez

THERE are four one-hour shows from Tuesday to Saturday that feature the solar system and a close look at the "heavenly bodies" in the sky.

THEY MAY NOT SEE A NIGHT sky filled with stars from their homes in the city, but an amazing simulation of one inside the Planetarium in Manila certainly made kids scream and clap their hands in wonder and perhaps, in appreciation.

"*Ang galing* (It's great)!" said a girl from the Industrial Valley school in Marikina as she and her classmates stared at the bright dots moving slowly on the ceiling.

"It's an exact copy of the real night sky," said Bel Pabunan, officer in charge of the Planetarium division. "Here in Metro Manila, the kids don't see a night sky like that because of pollution and bright lights. But with the Goto Projector, we can simulate the night sky and project the planets and other deep space objects like satellites."

The construction of a planetarium was conceived by former National Museum director Godofredo Alcasid Sr. who proposed it to former First Lady Imelda Marcos in the early 1970s. The dome-shaped building with a 300-seating capacity on Padre Burgos Street, Ermita, a few meters away from Rizal Park, took nine months to build and was formally inaugurated on Oct. 8, 1975.

Still in operation

Today, the aging structure may seem like one of the city's abandoned buildings although the Planetarium is still very much operational.

Pabunan said they often draw elementary and high school students to their four daily shows that take spectators on a trip out of this world.

Called "Journey to the Solar System, an interplanetary adventure," the show kicks off with a "sunset"—which is when the lights dim and the wonderful night sky is shown. It ends with "sunrise," when the lights brighten, complete with roosters crowing in the background.

While the star projector, a large machine in the theater's center, is the Planetarium's "heart," slide projectors complement the lecture by showing stark features of the heavenly bodies, including Mercury's craters and Saturn's rings.

Aside from the major constellations that showed the hunter Orion's belt, the young audience was also astonished when little by little, the planets grew larger until they seemed within arm's reach.

The lecture, added Pabunan, is updated with recent scientific advances such as Pluto being classified as a dwarf planet. Sometimes, however, the visual effects drown out the narrator's hypnotic voice.

According to Pabunan, they are currently developing another feature on "The Ring Planets" which are composed of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Pluto.

"Our real purpose is to disseminate information and complement textbooks in schools, but we present it in a way that we show their real features and colors," said the senior museum researcher.

Renovation of the 32-year-old structure, she revealed, was also long overdue and will begin before December. The first rehabilitation was done in 1991 after the inner dome that served as the screen collapsed due to old age and the effects of the earthquake the year before.

"We're due for a repair of the ceiling leakages and offices, plus some repainting. More than that, we want to change the exhibits because ever since, these have not been updated," she said, adding that the Planetarium would remain open during the restoration which would take 150 days.

P4-M renovation

The rehabilitation would cost around P4 million, she said, excluding the updating of the exhibits.

Outside the theater, indeed, were exhibits on comets, meteorites and space explorations that featured yellowing photographs. Aside from being outdated, they hardly generated interest among the visitors.

Given the funds, Pabunan said they would create more interactive exhibits and modernize the current ones with interesting tidbits. Photo displays would be part of Phase 1 while hands-on exhibits would form part of Phase 2.

But for schools and other institutions whose students are

STARRY/ A28

THE 32-YEAR-OLD Planetarium will soon undergo repairs and an overhaul of its outdated exhibits.

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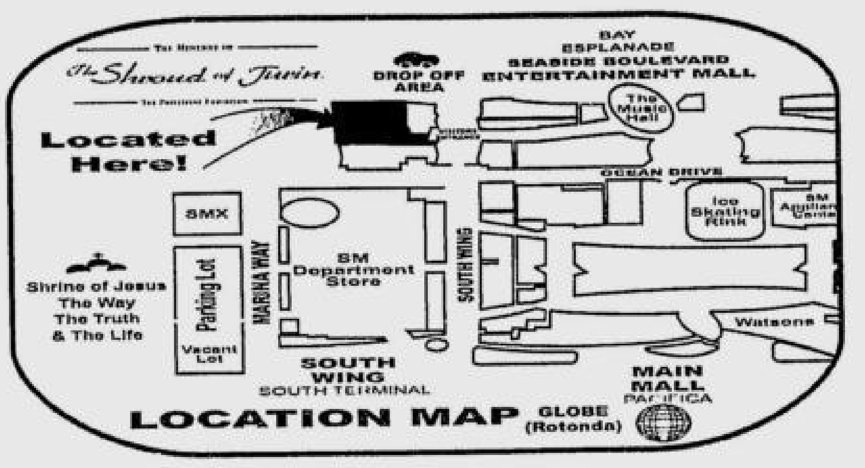

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Cop says Indian's abduction a case of mistaken identity

By Kristine L. Alave

AFTER SIX DAYS IN CAPTIVITY, AN Indian national was freed on Saturday by his abductors after they realized that he was not the businessman they were supposed to kidnap.

P01 Gerard Zerda identified the kidnap victim as Gurcharan Singh, 24, single and a businessman residing in Barangay San Isidro, Taytay, Rizal.

Zerda said Singh went to the Taytay police station on Saturday afternoon to report his abduction and his release.

The police, however, have yet to identify the victim's captors.

Before Singh presented himself to the police, his relatives had reported his disappearance last week to authorities.

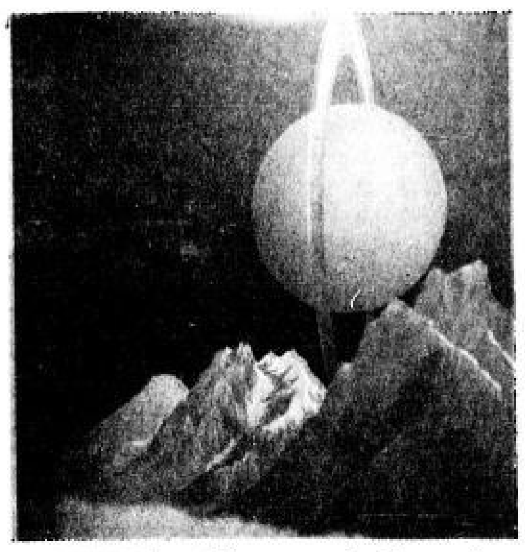
Police said Singh told them that he was abducted at around 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 28, while he was attending to his lending business in Roma Street, Barangay Muzon.

According to Singh, the unidentified suspects blocked his way, pointed a gun at him and shoved him inside their car, a gray Toyota Revo with plate number XFJ 811.

Follow-up investigation showed that the license plate had been stolen from a car owned by a pharmaceutical company, police said.

Zerda said Singh did not pay for his release because his captors let him go after realizing that he was not their target.

"It was a case of mistaken identity," the police officer said.



FOR THOSE unable to go to the Planetarium in Ermita, Manila, there is a mobile version which can accommodate at least 30 people per show.

Starry, starry day . . .

From page A27

unable to go to the Planetarium, a mobile version will soon be coming their way.

Pabunan said that although the 4x4 meter mobile Planetarium could only accommodate 30 people at a time, it may be a cheaper alternative to hiring buses and paying the entrance fee.

Lectures on outer space would also be held simultaneously with the mobile Planetarium that has reached only as far as Isabela.

Pabunan, however, hoped that even students from Visayas and Mindanao would soon experience the wonders of the universe, even through the smaller version of the Planetarium.

The Planetarium is open from Tuesday to Saturday with shows at 9-10 a.m., 10:30-11:30 a.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Admission fee is P30 for students and P50 for adults. Call 5277889 for more details.

METROBRIEFS

Police brace for heavy traffic

ANTICIPATING the heavy traffic in the next two days as Metro Manila residents return from the provinces, the Eastern Police District has ordered the deployment of additional policemen in major choke points and advised commuters to avoid these "critical areas." EPD chief, Sr. Supt. Nilo de la Cruz, said their "immediate concern" is the heavy volume of vehicles in the area's major thoroughfares starting last night. He identified the choke points as Shaw Boulevard and Edsa intersection, Marcos Highway, and Ortigas Avenue. De la Cruz said the police are bracing for traffic jams in these areas, which connect the heart of the metropolis to the eastern provinces. More policemen and patrols have been deployed to these areas to monitor traffic, he added. He also advised commuters to steer clear of these thoroughfares to avoid being stuck in traffic. De la Cruz echoed the Philippine National Police's assessment that the All Saints' Day break was relatively peaceful except for minor incidents.

Kristine L. Alave

Shooting victim tags killers

A WAITER died the other day, just hours after he was shot by three men in Quezon City. According to a police report, barangay watchmen were on patrol in San Miguel Extension, Payatas at 9:45 p.m Saturday when they heard gunfire. When they got to Springfield Street, they saw a man lying on the ground, bleeding from several gunshot wounds. They also saw three men boarding a blue Toyota Tamaraw FX with no license plates, the police report said. The victim was later identified as Oting Gampong, a Muslim. He was taken to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment but was pronounced dead at around midnight that same day. Before he died, however, he was able to tell policemen and his relatives who his attackers were. They were identified as Raffy Tani and Nasser Bagundang. Gampong did not say how the suspects were related and why they shot him.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Body found in Quiapo creek

DESPITE the clearing of the notorious "Little Vietnam" area in Quiapo, Manila, another body was found floating in the nearby creek Saturday night. SPO2 Benito Cabatbat of the Manila Police District homicide division identified the victim as Arumpa Jamal, around 30 to 32 years old, a native of Cotabato City and a member of the Maranaw tribe. Jamal's body was discovered at around 6:30 p.m. in the creek along Arlegui Street, near the Manuel Luis Quezon University. Cabatbat said the victim bore a wound on the head, indicating that he may have been hit with a blunt object before being thrown into the creek. Residents who were questioned could not give any information about Jamal's death, he added. An autopsy of the victim's body, however, could not be performed out of respect for Muslim traditions.

Allison W. Lopez

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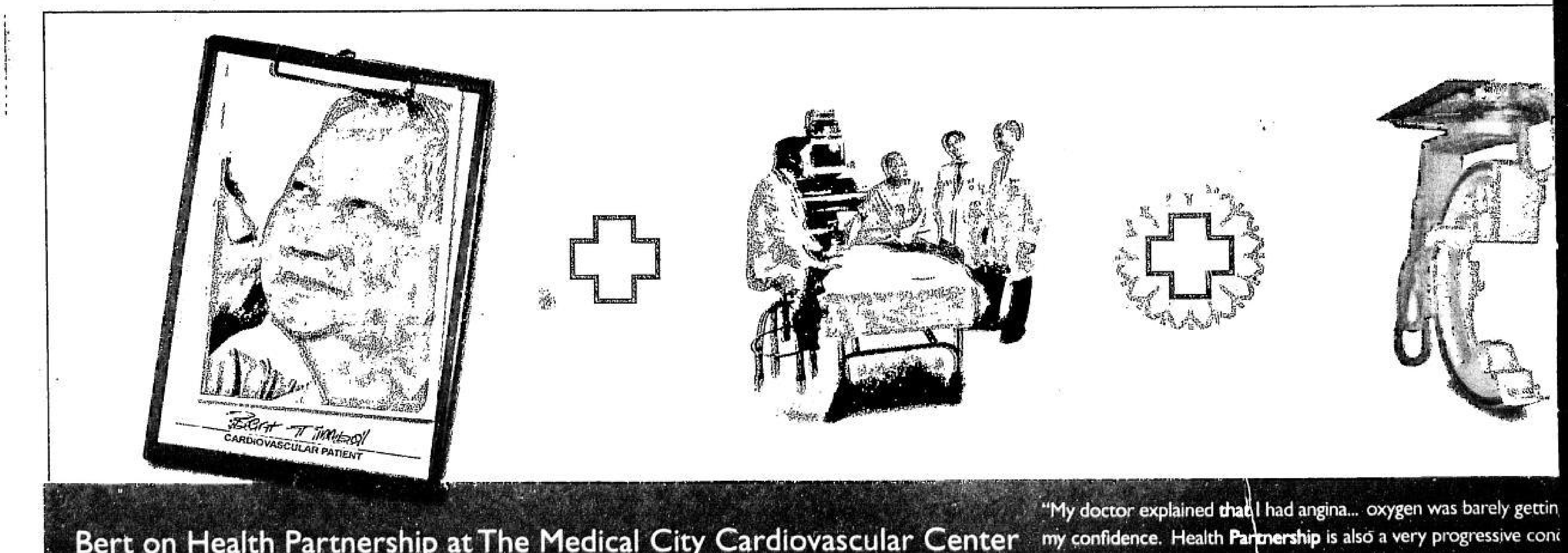

Bert on Health Partnership at The Medical City Cardiovascular Center

"My doctor explained that I had angina... oxygen was barely gettin
my confidence. Health Partnership is also a very progressive cond
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In US war on terrorism, 'waterboarding' is not deemed torture

WASHINGTON—SIX YEARS AFTER the Sept. 11 attacks and despite the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, the United States insists its war on terrorism justifies extreme forms of interrogation, including "waterboarding," and rejects any talk of torture.

During a Senate confirmation hearing earlier this month, attorney general nominee Michael Mukasey refused to address the legality of bringing a prisoner to near drowning to make him talk, drawing fire from opposition Democrats and human rights groups.

"If he is still unsure whether the horrific practice of waterboarding is illegal, then he shouldn't be confirmed," said Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth.

"The only reason to equivocate on waterboarding is to protect administration officials who authorized it from possible prosecution," he added.

In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the United States launched a detention and interrogation drive that allowed intelligence agents to employ tougher techniques on suspected terrorists that were kept strictly confidential.

The New York Times in early October published justice department documents that said it was not illegal to smack prisoners around, expose them to extreme temperatures or to simulated drowning, a technique used during Algeria's war of independence in the 1950s.

The Geneva Conventions expressly outlaw any form of moral and physical torture to extract information from prisoners of war and mandates that all combatants in detention "shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, including prohibition of outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment."

"This government does not torture people. We stick to US law and our international obligations," Bush has said, defending his war on terror. "The procedures used in this program are safe, they are lawful and they are necessary," he added on Thursday. *AFP*

US eyes closing Guantanamo

WASHINGTON—BUSH ADministration officials are considering granting Guantanamo detainees substantially greater rights as part of an effort to close the detention center and possibly move much of its population to the United States, according to officials involved in the discussions.

One proposal that is being widely discussed in the administration would overhaul the procedure for determining whether detainees are properly held by granting them legal representation at detention hearings and by giving federal judges, not military officers, the power to decide whether suspects should be held.

Some officials now say that moving the detainees to US soil would require giving them enhanced protections.

The Bush administration has insisted for more than five years that a central legal pillar of the war on terror is that the military alone has the power to decide which foreign terrorism suspects should be held and for how long, and backing away from that would be a sharp change of course.

Yet some officials say that enhancing detainees' rights could also help the administration strategically, by undercutting a case brought by suspects at Guantanamo that is now before the Supreme Court, which could wind up winning them even more power to challenge their detention.

Under current procedures at Guantanamo, military officers decide whether detainees are properly held as enemy combatants, and the suspects are not permitted lawyers in the detention hearings.

Officials from President Bush on down have said they would like to close Guantanamo. In interviews, officials said the discussion of detainee rights was not an acknowledgment that past policies were flawed, but rather was an indication that the administration was engaged in trying to assess the legal and practical consequences of shutting the detention center and moving detainees to the United States. *NYT*

World summit delegates vow to fight for better toilets

NEW DELHI—DELEGATES from dozens of nations said they needed to work harder to make toilets available to the developing world and shift away from "disposal-oriented" systems like the western flush and sewers.

The world needs to build almost 100,000 toilets a day to halve the number of people without basic sanitation by 2015, according to experts at the gathering.

But Jacks Sims, of summit co-organizer the World Toilet Organization, said at the close of the meeting that it could be done.

"You all think Singapore is so clean," said Sim, juxtaposing a picture of himself defecating in the streets as a child there 40 years ago with a photo this year of a boy in India's tech-hub Bangalore doing the same.

"It was not always like that." But delegates acknowledged during the conference last week that many countries still have a long way to go.

Some 2.6 billion people—more than 40 percent of the globe's population—still do not have access to hygienic toilets that do not pollute water or soil. More than half of them live in India and China.

The United Nations wants to halve that number in the next eight years as part of its Millennium Development Goals.

Delegates pledged in a joint declaration Friday to "facilitate a paradigm shift from disposal-oriented to reuse and recycling sanitation systems."

"It has been noted that there is a need to accelerate the progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goal on sanitation by 2015," the statement said.

Some 400 delegates from more than 40 countries promised to "mobilize governments, UN agencies, financial institutions, corporate bodies, sanitation service providers, local bodies and other stakeholders."

A Swedish delegate said that the cost to achieve the 2015 goal could be achieved for $3.8 billion a year.

Water-borne diseases caused by poor sanitation kill millions worldwide annually, including as many as 1.6 million children from diarrhea alone. *AFP*

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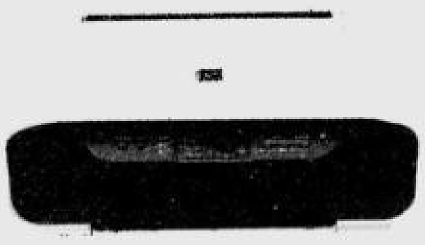

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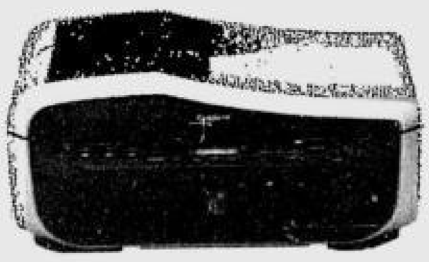

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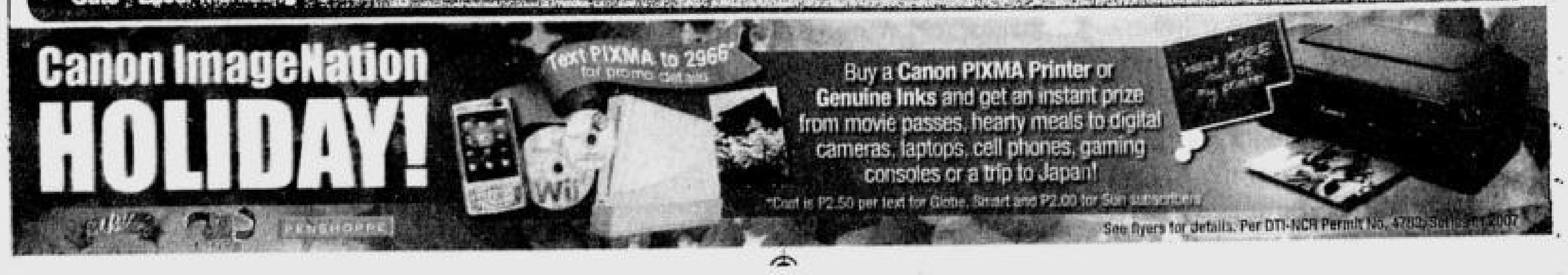

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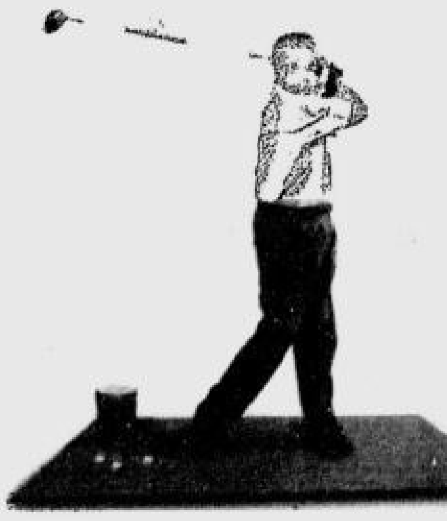

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Battle rages over planned London mega-mosque

LONDON—DISPUTES OVER mosques have broken out across Europe. Residents from Belgium to France to Germany have expressed unease at minarets competing in the urban landscape with the spires and stones of centuries-old cathedrals.

But the fight raging over an abandoned lot in London's East End is of an altogether grander scale. A large and secretive Islamic sect proposed building what would have been the largest mosque in Europe, smack at the gateway to the 2012 Olympic Games, and within sight of London's financial district.

That plan was sent back to the drawing board to be scaled down. But not before raising a furor of equal size and discomforting questions about the right of Britain's Muslims to take up a public space commensurate with their growing numbers.

This summer on the website of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, more than 250,000 critics of the proposed mosque supported a petition initiated by a backer of the conservative British National Party. Some of them said a large mosque had no right to exist in such a prominent place in a Christian country.

When, around the same time, the historian of religion Karen Armstrong wrote an article in the liberal Guardian newspaper, commenting favorably about the mosque, the paper's website was deluged with complaints.

In Newham, the borough where the mosque would stand, Alan Craig, the leader of the Christian Peoples Alliance Party in the East End, started a one-man campaign against the mosque a year ago that has mushroomed and gained national prominence.

He began by emphasizing the size of the mosque. But now he focuses on its sponsor, Tablighi Jamaat, a worldwide evangelical Islamic group based in Pakistan with millions of followers that professes to encourage Muslims to be more loyal to their faith.

The driving force behind the plan to build a grander mosque has been Abdul Khaliq Mian, 55, a British businessman born in Pakistan and a longtime follower of Tablighi Jamaat.

On the No. 10 Downing St. website, the prime minister's office notes that no planning application has been made, and makes clear that the government has taken no position.

A London public relations firm, Indigo, which has put up a website on the mosque, abbeymillsmosque.com, has been hired by the secretive Tablighi Jamaat to deflect pressure on it to speak for itself. *NYT*

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the dissolution of HINGE MEDIA, INC. ("Corporation") by amending its articles of incorporation to shorten the corporate term from fifty (50) years from and after the date of incorporation to until 31 December 2005 was approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock and majority of the Board of Directors of the Corporation in its joint special meeting held on 29 December 2005.

All persons having a claim against the Corporation are requested to present their claim at the Corporation's principal office at Unit 330 Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City for immediate settlement.

Once again,
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Once more, the Inquirer has received the most accolades in the Print category of the coveted, highly prestigious Catholic Mass Media Awards.

In a near sweep of all its nominations, 8 major awards were given to our very own: Fernando del Mundo, Volt Contreras and Alcuin Papa (Best Investigative Report for "The State of Philippine Education"); Leila Salaverria and Nestor P. Burgos, Jr. (Best News Coverage for "Oil spill off Guimaras could reach Boracay"); Edwin Bacasmas (Best News Photograph for "Father and Child"); Jess Abrera (Best Editorial Cartoon for "Rights of the Child"); Michael Tan (Best Opinion Column for "Pinoy Kasi"); Nestor Torre (Best Entertainment Column for "Viewfinder"); Gemma Luz Corotan (special citation for her special report on "Filipino sex prisoner thought she was in France"); and again, Leila Salaverria (special citation for her special report on the "Guimaras oil spill").

Inquirer is honored to have them, and many other multi-awarded journalists, publish excellent news, information and opinion that touch Filipinos' lives every day. Truly, they are what make being Number One a source of pride.

Fernando del Mundo

Volt Contreras

Alcuin Papa

Leila Salaverria

Nestor Burgos Jr.

Edwin Bacasmas

Jess Abrera

Michael Tan

Nestor Torre

Gemma Luz Corotan

A CREW MEMBER of an emergency rescue helicopter evacuates flood victims in Villahermosa, Mexico, on Nov. 3. AP

Hungry Mexico flood victims turn to looting

VILLAHERMOSA, MEXICO—RESCUE workers and police were out in force helping flood victims in southern Mexico, as food shortages sent hundreds of hungry people on a looting rampage at a shopping center.

Around 80 percent of the Belgium-sized state of Tabasco was flooded after seven rain-loaded rivers burst their banks in the flat, flood-prone region, in its worst natural disaster in decades.

In neighboring Chiapas state, bordering the Pacific Ocean, authorities put 30 townships with more than a million people under a state of alert Saturday after 16 rivers overflowed their banks, and reported one person killed by the floods.

In Tabasco, the floods affected more than half the state's 2.1 million population, and one death has been confirmed so far. Patrols were still searching for victims Saturday.

Many thousands of people were trapped at home. With water as deep as two meters, many have desperately tried to flee, waiting as long as three days for a rescue-boat pickup from their rooftops or as they clung to tree branches.

Thousands poured into neighboring states Chiapas and Veracruz seeking refuge.

But many others holed up despite the flooding, refusing to leave at their own risk, fearing looters would take all their possessions.

Carlos Mario Ramos, 75, had been slow to leave his home, and said he was happy that "the water is down a bit. But at this rate it is going to take a week or two to go down to normal."

Drinking water and food shortages brought on by flooded roads in Tabasco have prompted several looting incidents at abandoned homes and businesses.

The worst incident took place Saturday morning when around 1,000 people overran a downtown shopping center in Tabasco, overwhelming law enforcement officials posted in the area, and making off with everything in sight, including televisions and home appliances.

"People are going hungry, we're aware of that," Tabasco Gov. Andres Granier said on television after the looting incident, "but being hungry doesn't justify such behavior and outright attacks."

Smaller looting incidents occurred Friday and police made several arrests, the governor also said. *AFP*

Artery disease rises among US women

ORLANDO, FLA.—MORE US WOMEN ARE developing a type of artery disease that raises the risk of death from heart disease and stroke, researchers said on Sunday.

Researchers used US government health surveys to track rates of peripheral artery disease, known as PAD, in people age 40 and over with no outward symptoms of cardiovascular illness.

PAD is a circulatory condition in which narrowed arteries cut blood flow to the limbs.

Rates among women rose from 4.1 percent in a nationally representative 1999-2000 survey to 6.3 percent in a 2003-2004 survey. Among men, the rates fell from 3.3 percent to 2.8 percent during the same period, the researchers said.

"In those women with PAD, the increasing prevalence was associated with an increase in the prevalence of obesity," Dr. Andrew Sumner, medical director of the Heart Station and Cardiac Prevention at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania, who led the study, said in an interview.

"It's a large number of people who are at risk and don't know it," Sumner added.

PAD develops when fatty deposits accumulate in the inner linings of artery walls, cutting blood flow and oxygen to the legs, feet, arms and other parts of the body. It raises the risk of developing and dying from heart disease and stroke. *Reuters*

Japan seen heading for political chaos

TOKYO—A FAILED ATTEMPT BY JAPAN'S prime minister to form a grand coalition with the main opposition party and break a deadlock in parliament has set the country on track for more political confusion and policy gridlock, analysts say.

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda sounded out Democratic Party leader Ichiro Ozawa about forming a new ruling coalition in a meeting on Friday, but the opposition swiftly rejected the offer.

"The meeting has made things more fluid. Anything can happen. We are entering a period of tremendous political upheaval," said Sophia University political science professor Koichi Nakano.

"We are basically back to gridlock, with an even greater degree of political uncertainty."

Fukuda said on Friday that he had suggested a new political framework to Ozawa to resolve the policy stalemate created when the ruling camp lost a July upper house election, allowing the opposition to delay key legislation.

Topping the list of bills Fukuda wants to enact is one to enable Japan's Navy to resume a refueling mission in support of US-led operations in Afghanistan, activities close ally Washington says are vital to its fight against terrorism.

Tokyo recalled its ships on Thursday when a law enabling the mission expired. Ozawa has said the mission lacked a UN mandate and violated Japan's pacifist constitution, and the Democrats and their allies have vowed to vote against the new bill.

Japan's refueling operations for US and other ships patrolling the Indian Ocean are expected to be halted for months if not longer—something Fukuda must explain to US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates when he visits Tokyo this week and to President George W. Bush in talks in Washington the week after.

Fukuda's ruling bloc could now decide to use its two-thirds majority in the Lower House to override an Upper House rejection of the bill now that the Democrats rejected his offer.

So far, lawmakers in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner have been wary of taking that step for fear it would anger voters, who are divided over the mission.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura, however, on Sunday stopped short of making that threat. "That is still a matter for the future," Machimura told public broadcaster NHK.

Machimura also denied the possibility of a snap poll for the powerful Lower House, speculation about which has been swirling ever since the ruling bloc lost its upper house majority.

"Dissolving parliament is not something we are thinking about even in the furthest reaches of our minds," he told NHK.

No election for the powerful Lower House need be held until late 2009, but pundits have been predicting an early poll, most likely next April but perhaps even as early as January.

The current session of parliament, set to end on Nov. 10, is now likely to be extended for about one month, media reported.

Fukuda's courtship of the Democrats could well be seen as a sign of weakness by the prime minister, whose month-old government has failed to enact a single bill, analysts said.

But media reports on Sunday that it was Ozawa who made the offer first, without consulting Democratic Party executives, mean his credibility could be damaged even more.

Ozawa has made creating a viable alternative to the long-ruling LDP a top goal ever since he bolted the party in 1993, and many had thought the Democrats had their best chance ever of taking power in the next election.

"Both sides are blaming the other for taking the initiative and that mudslinging will go on," Nakano said. *Reuters*

DISPLACED, WEARY AND HUNGRY

Displaced Somalis sit at a camp destroyed by fire near Mogadishu on Nov. 3. About 88,000 Somalis have fled the coastal city during heavy fighting in Mogadishu since the last weekend, adding to hundreds of thousands who ran away earlier this year, according to the United Nations' refugee agency.

REUTERS

Relative of Brazilian shot by UK police says killers deserve prison

DE MENEZES AP

GONZAGA, BRAZIL—A CLOSE relative of a Brazilian killed by London police when he was mistaken for a terrorist said only prison sentences would bring a measure of justice in the shooting.

The aunt of Jean Charles de Menezes said she was disheartened by Thursday's decision that found the London police guilty of endangering the public by mistakenly shooting the 27-year-old Brazilian electrician and penalized the force with fines. No individual officer was charged in the shooting.

"I think true justice would be for them to go to prison, at least for some time so that they could think about what they did," Maria Beatriz Figueiredo told The Associated Press on Friday at her home in Gonzaga, a remote town of 6,000 in southeastern Brazil.

De Menezes' parents declined to comment on the case unless they were paid.

De Menezes was killed during a frantic manhunt for four failed suicide bombers in a British capital already on edge after four suicide bombers killed 52 commuters two weeks earlier. On July 22, 2005, officers trailed the Brazilian migrant onto a subway train and, believing he was a bomber, shot him seven times at close range in front of morning commuters.

A British judge fined the London police force 175,000 pounds ($362,000) and ordered it to pay costs of 385,000 pounds ($798,000). But the Metropolitan Police said the killing was an error, not a crime.

London police chief Ian Blair expressed "deep regret" over De Menezes' death but said he has no intention of resigning, and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said he had "full confidence" in the police chief.

De Menezes moved abroad, like many Brazilians, to earn money and help provide a better life for his family at home.

British authorities thought De Menezes might have been a suspect who dropped his gym membership card at the scene of one of the failed attacks.

Armed officers shot De Menezes five times in the head, once in the neck and once in the shoulder. A police lawyer told the jury that De Menezes was shot because he reacted as police had been briefed a suicide bomber might react. *AP*

Opposition leader announces resignation

OZAWA AP

TOKYO—THE HEAD OF JAPAN'S main opposition party said Sunday he would step down as party chief amid controversy over his apparent willingness to form a coalition with the ruling bloc.

The resignation of Democratic Party President Ichiro Ozawa came just days after his party blocked government efforts to extend a naval mission in support of US-led operations in Afghanistan.

Ozawa said he was resigning to take responsibility for causing confusion within the party for failing to immediately reject a power-sharing proposal from Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on Friday.

"I caused political confusion over Prime Minister Fukuda's coalition proposal," Ozawa told a news conference.

"I have therefore decided to resign from my post as president," he said.

Ozawa discussed the possible alliance with the DPJ executive committee, which voted to reject the proposal later Friday. Fukuda told reporters he was trying to break a deadlock in the Diet, Japan's parliament, between the two parties.

Some DPJ leaders later criticized Ozawa, saying the party should defeat the ruling Liberal Democratic Party at the ballot—and that an alliance was out of the question.

"I took the committee's decision as a vote of no confidence," Ozawa said. He was expected to retain his parliamentary seat.

Earlier Sunday, another DPJ executive demanded early elections to break the parliamentary impasse.

The DPJ will not back a compromise that would allow Japanese naval ships to return to the Indian Ocean to support coalition operations in Afghanistan, party Secretary General Naoto Kan said.

"Our aim is to achieve a change in government," Kan told a talk show on public broadcaster NHK. "What we need now is to ask the public for a mandate in the lower house." *AP*

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The proposed mainframe storage disks should be able to run with the existing mainframe configuration of the Bank and its succeeding upgrades for the next four (4) years. It must be brand new and must not be more than two (2) years old in the market. The bid must also be inclusive of four (4) years maintenance for the new mainframe disk storage. Lastly, the bid must also include the upgrade of the existing Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) equipment of the Bank.

The procurement must take into account all related implementation activities and processes such as relocation of machines, data migration, remote data mirroring, maintenance, support, technology skills transfer and documentation, and project management.

The bidders must submit a Letter of Intent by hand and may secure the Eligibility Requirements and Terms of Reference (TOR), ***upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P12,500.00) and upon signing a Confidentiality Agreement*** from ***November 5 to 9, 2007*** during regular office hours (between 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM) from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M. H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone +63 2 405-7123
Fax Number +63 2 528-8578
Contact Person Cecilia C. Sazon
AVP, Network Operations Department
Secretariat, IT-BAC
Email Address itbac@mail.landbank.com

The *Pre-bid Conference* shall be held on ***20 November 2007 (Tuesday)***, 10:00 AM at the aforementioned address.

Submission and opening of bid shall be on ***29 November 2007 (Thursday)***. The lowest complying bidder shall be declared the winner.

The *Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)* is ***Twenty-Five Million Pesos (PHP 25,000,000.00)***, **inclusive of all taxes**, which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LAND BANK reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(Sgd.) **JOSE C. NOGRALES**
SEVP/Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI - Nov. 5, 2007)

UN seeks to restart talks with Burma

RANGOON—UNITED NATIONS ENVOY IBRAHIM GAMbari met a senior junta official in isolated capital Naypyidaw in Burma (Myanmar) on Sunday, as the military government defended its move to expel a top UN diplomat.

A government official, who wished to remain anonymous, said that Gambari held talks with Aung Kyi, the labor minister who the regime has tasked with building relations with democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

It is not yet clear if the Nigerian diplomat will meet with junta head Than Shwe, but the official said Gambari would meet Tuesday with Aung San Suu Kyi, currently under house arrest in Rangoon, and members of her National League for Democracy party.

Gambari is on the second day of his visit here to press for political reform and dialogue with the opposition following a crackdown in September that killed at least 13 protesters and saw thousands of people locked up.

But the junta's announcement late Friday that it would not renew the accreditation of Charles Petrie, the UN's most senior official in Burma, has threatened to overshadow the original purpose of Gambari's mission.

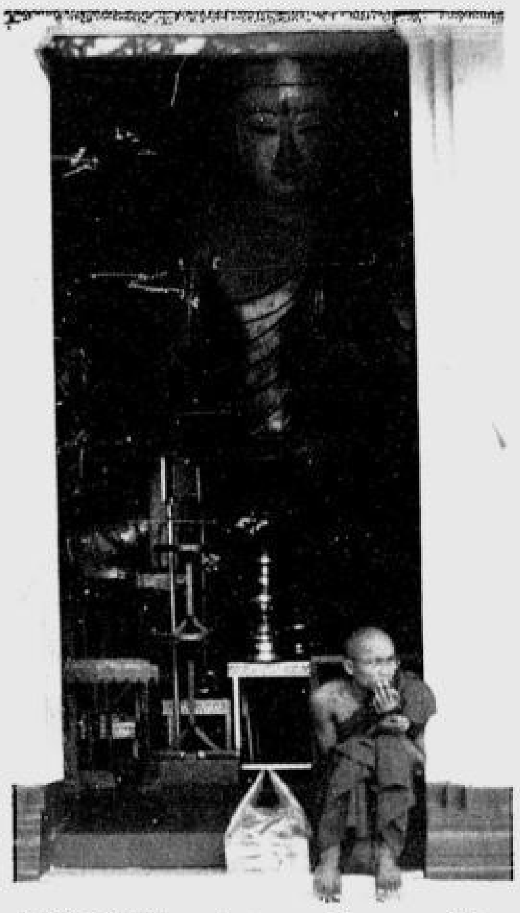
Burma's state-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper on Sunday carried a commentary accusing the United Nations country team of misrepresenting the humanitarian and economic situation here in a report on Oct. 24.

It claimed the assessment was "not based on firm evidence or true data and thus it does not reflect the objective conditions of Burma."

The October statement, released to coincide with United Nations Day, said the protests which broke out in August in response to a rise in fuel prices highlighted daily hardships in impoverished Burma.

"The events clearly demonstrated the everyday struggle to meet basic needs, and the urgent necessity to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country," it said.

In a letter obtained by AFP from Burma's foreign ministry to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's office, the junta accused Petrie of "acting beyond his capacity by issuing the statement which not only harms Burma's reputation but also the reputation of the United Nations."



A BUDDHIST monk at one of the many shrines at the Shwedagon pagoda in Rangoon. AP

The possible expulsion of Petrie has provoked criticism from both Singapore, current chair of regional bloc Asean, and the United States, which called the junta's move an "insult to the United Nations."

A UN statement Saturday said that Gambari was briefed by Petrie upon his arrival in Burma, and passed on the Secretary General's support for the United Nations mission there and Petrie himself. *AFP*

UN in Burma: A history of failed efforts

BANGKOK, THAILAND—EFFORTS IN REcent years by the United Nations to achieve reconciliation between the ruling military and prodemocracy forces in Burma (also known as Myanmar) have been punctuated by frustration, false hopes and failure:

1989: Prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi detained and put under house arrest after the military's brutal suppression of an uprising a year earlier.

1998: Peruvian diplomat Alvara de Soto named special UN envoy to break deadlock between military and democracy advocates. UN and World Bank propose financial incentives for change that then-Foreign Minister Win Aung calls "offering a banana to a monkey and asking it to dance."

1990: UN Commission on Human Rights names Sadako Ogata to assess the human rights situation in Burma. She is followed by Yozo Yokota and the current post holder, Paulo Sergio Pineiro.

April 4, 2000: Malaysian diplomat Razali Ismail appointed special UN envoy for Burma. He later acknowledges a company he chairs does business with the Burma regime.

Sept. 2000: Suu Kyi, released in 1995, placed under house arrest again.

Nov. 29, 2001: Razali say he's "hopeful that some significant progress could be made in the near future."

2002: Razali helps secure the release of Suu Kyi from house arrest and the regime declares "the era of confrontation is over."

2003: Suu Kyi is put back under house arrest.

Jan. 4, 2006: Razali resigns as envoy, frustrated at being barred from entering the country for nearly two years.

May 20, 2006: Nigerian diplomat Ibrahim Gambari becomes the first foreigner to meet Suu Kyi in more than two years amid renewed talk of a "breakthrough."

May 22, 2007: Gambari appointed special UN envoy. Suu Kyi's house arrest extended three days later.

Sept. 2007: Protests over a surge in consumer goods prices brings thousands to the streets. The military is deployed to crush the demonstrations. At least 10 are killed and thousands detained.

Sept. 29: Gambari arrives for four-day visit to Burma, meeting junta leaders and Suu Kyi. The regime later holds a brief meeting with Suu Kyi.

Oct. 11: UN Security Council, in its first formal statement on Burma, says it "strongly deplores" situation in country.

Nov 2: Junta says it intends to expel top UN diplomat in the country.

Nov. 3: Gambari arrives in Burma in another effort at reconciliation. *AP*

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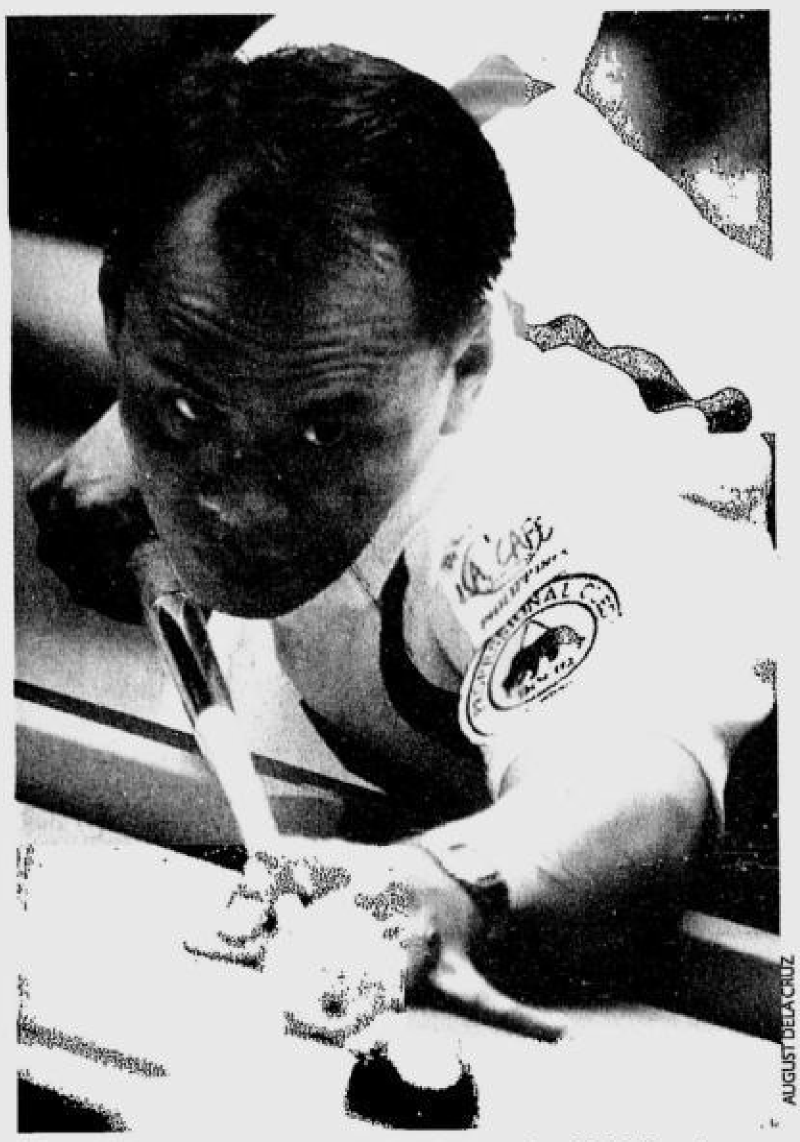

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

DJANGO Bustamante shows winning form against Vaic Zbynek.

Django, 3 more RP cue artists advance

By Musong R. Castillo

FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE WENT THROUGH HIS stint in the "Group of Death" in a virtual waltz. But Antonio Lining stared death in the eye and blinked.

Bustamante dismantled two foes in succession yesterday, none more merciless than a 9-0 thumping of Korean Jeong Young-hwa as he clinched a Last 64 seat in the $400,000 World Pool Championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Former champion Alex Pagulayan followed suit—also in the same easy manner—and things looked perfect for the Philippine contingent until Lining fell by the wayside opposite a patient Corey Deuel of the US.

Lining, after losing his opening match to Jeong, 8-9, and rebounding to play a third match, flubbed two crucial shots in a four-rack span to blow a 7-3 lead against the young American and become the first Filipino to hit the showers with a 7-9 loss.

But it wasn't as if he didn't get another shot.

After Deuel won four straight racks to knot the score at 7, the veteran Lining had a golden chance to take the hill and break for the clinching rack as Deuel muffed an easy shot on the yellow 1 after his break.

But it looked like nerves did the Filipino in as Lining bungled an easy attempt on No. 3 to the right corner pocket that left Deuel a wide open table.

The Philippines advanced all its Day 1 bets into the first round on Saturday with defending champion Ronnie Alcano towing Efren "Bata" Reyes, Joven Bustamante and Antonio Gabica.

DJANGO/ A34

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La Salle eyes repeat in Intercollegiate tilt

LA SALLE EYES A REPEAT OF its mighty first leg sweep when the newly revived National Intercollegiate Golf 2007 resumes today at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

La Salle's main crew of Charles Hong, Marco Olives, Justin Limjap, Mico Yee and Jorge Paez are going for another sweep of the team and individual titles but should expect a tougher challenge against the six other teams in the field.

In the first leg played at Splendido Taal Golf and Country Club, La Salle posted a 22-stroke win in team play with Hong and Limjap finishing 1-2 in the individual event.

The Philippine Golf Foundation is the main backer of the Intercollegiate wars in cooperation with Malarayat and the other host venues. Baliwag Transit is the official transport company and Lynx/Golfers Network Inc., the equipment and apparel sponsor.

Out to challenge the La Salle bid are teams from Ateneo, College of St. Benilde, University of the Philippines, University of the East, University of Santo Tomas and University of Asia and the Pacific.

UST spearhead Tonton Asistio will try to redeem himself from a lackluster showing in the first leg while Ateneo is showing up in full force to shoot for the top plums in the second of five 36-hole events around exclusive clubs in Luzon.

Teams are allowed to register players who must be below 24 years of age.

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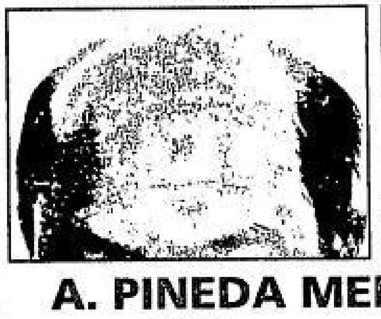
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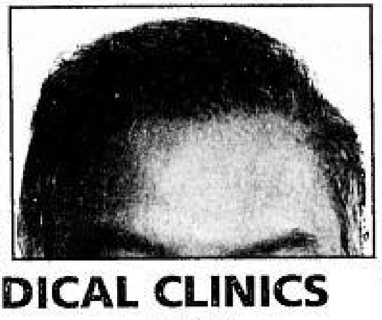
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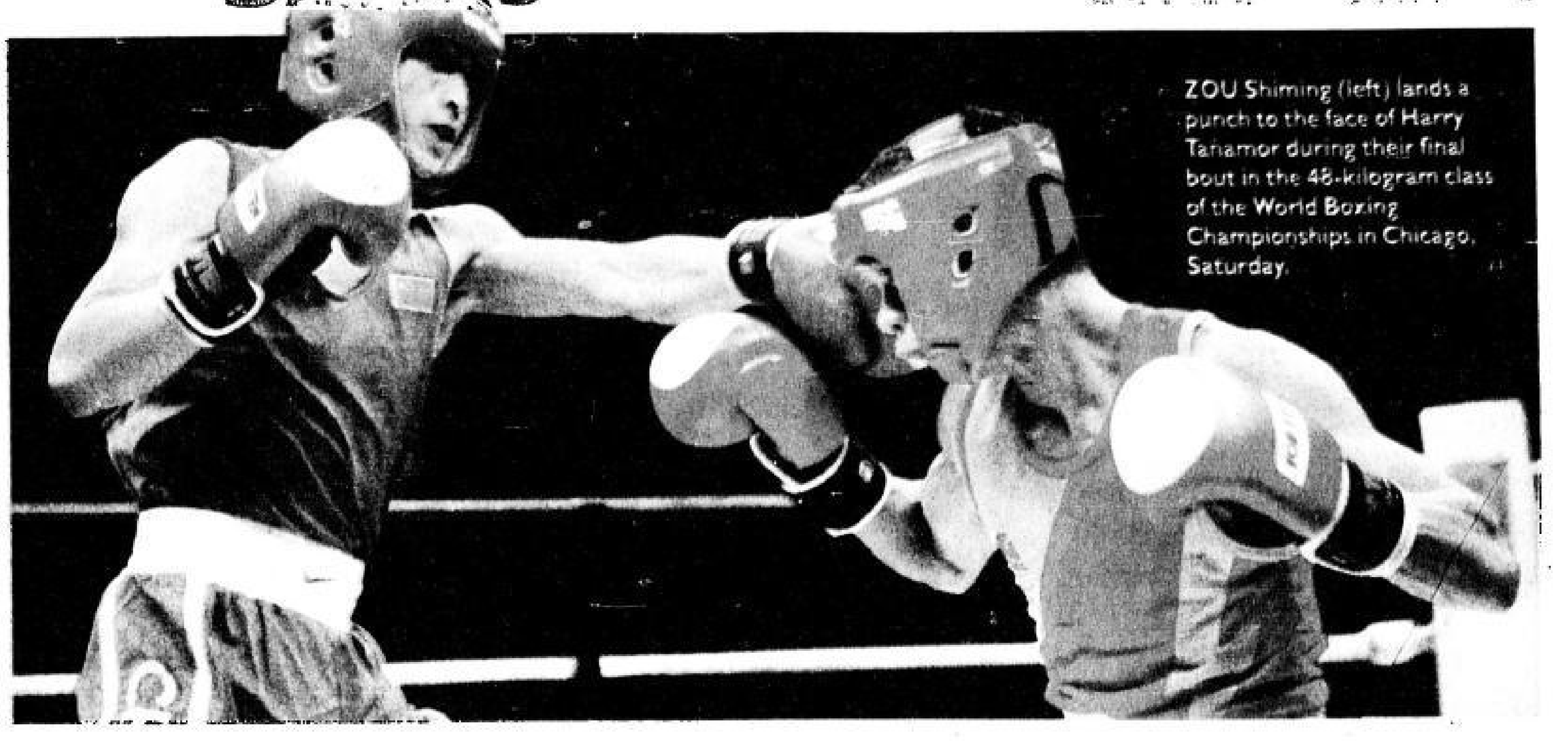

ZOU Shiming (left) lands a punch to the face of Harry Tañamor during their final bout in the 48-kilogram class of the World Boxing Championships in Chicago, Saturday.

Tañamor bows to Zou, settles for silver medal

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Inquirer Libre*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—LIGHT FLYWEIGHT HARRY TAÑAMOR SUCCUMBED TO THE all-around show of Zou Shiming of China, who easily won their gold medal match, 16-3, Saturday in the International Amateur Boxing Association World Championships at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion here.

Tañamor hurt his left hand while parrying Shiming's 1-2 combinations early in the bout and settled for the silver medal, matching the effort by now national women's boxing coach Roel Velasco in the biennial event.

Velasco, who also bagged a bronze in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, punched his way to the silver medal during the 1997 worlds in Budapest, Hungary.

"My hand hurts whenever I threw punches. I also failed to defend solidly because of that," Tañamor said in Filipino."But I'm not going to make excuses. Shiming won."

Knowing that Shiming, China's first Olympic medalist, was way ahead, Tañamor, the lone saving grace for the RP-PLDT Smart boxing team, waged an all-out attack.

But the Chinese dynamo proved elusive while repeatedly scoring with stinging jabs on the run which prevented Tañamor from making any headway.

"I tried to corner him, but he proved an elusive target," said Tañamor, who could meet Shiming anew in next year's Beijing Olympics, where the Filipino had earlier qualified after reaching the quarterfinals here.

Shiming opened a 6-1 lead after two minutes of action, padded this to 10-1 before a Tañamor left straight made it 10-2.

Despite the clear win, some experts criticized the scoring. TV replays showed that Tañamor should have scored the first point with a thunderous left straight to Shiming's face, but the judges did not respond. Shiming went ahead, 6-1 at the end of the first round and made it 7-1 despite punching with an open glove early in the second round.

"I'm amazed but not surprised. The scoring was simply unbelievable," said Dennis Rappaport, an American boxing promoter, who is also the manager of reigning WBC heavyweight titlist Oleg Maskaev of Russia.

Dickie Wood, an American trainer in the audience, also expressed his frustration over the scoring. "The Filipino boxer should have been credited with points. I think the judges were very biased."

"He showed to the world that Filipino boxers, whether professionals and amateurs, are world class. Harry fought very well and earned the respect of all," said Filipino community leader Rolando Hiso, a former member and manager of the national cycling team. Ricardo Fortaleza, an Asian Games boxing gold medalist, said he expects big things to happen for Tañamor in the Beijing Olympics.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez said the silver medal is a worthy finish for the RP-PLDT Smart boxing team.

"We lost our first three bouts here but bounced back mightily. Violito (Payla) and Genebert (Basadre) came to within a whisker of gaining slots in the Olympics. We learned our lessons here."

Lopez said that the Philippines is looking forward to competing in the next Asian Olympic qualifying slated January in Bangkok, Thailand.

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Baguio marathon: Lindawan stuns Vence

BAGUIO CITY—AN UNASSUMING runner overshot his target and bested former Olympian and top favorite Roy Vence in the last elimination race of the 31st National Milo Marathon yesterday at the Burnham Park here.

Jerry Lindawan, who was just aiming for a top three finish in the 21-kilometer qualifying race, clocked one hour, 14 minutes and 23 seconds in claiming his first ever leg title in the annual foot race.

Before the start of the race, all eyes were on 1996 Olympian and six-time Milo Marathon national champion Vence.

The 41-year-old Vence grabbed the early lead but Lindawan caught up with him in the last five kilometers.

Vence, the country's 42K marathon bet in the December Southeast Asian Games in Thailand along with Milo Marathon record holder Eduardo Buenavista, wound up second with a time of 1:15:06.

"*Hindi nga ako makapaniwala na nanalo ako* (I can't believe I won)," said the 23-year-old Lindawan from Tinoc, Ifugao. "*Gusto ko lang na mag-* (I just wanted to) qualify *sa* (in the) finals."

Placing third was Alunes Pudes at 1:17:01.

THE TOP three finishers in the Baguio City leg of the 31st Milo Marathon: (from left) second placer Roy Vence, champion Jerry Lindawan and third placer Alunes Pudes. They are joined at the podium by Nestlé's Willy Suarez, Pat Goc Ong, AVP Milo Sports Events, Nestlé regional sales director Patrick Dinio and local race organizer Tonette del Monte.

The distaff side was ruled by Flordeliza Donos (1:36:59) who claimed her first leg championship.

Catherine Reglos and Janice Matbagan finished second and third, respectively, with clockings of 1:52:57 and 1:53:38.

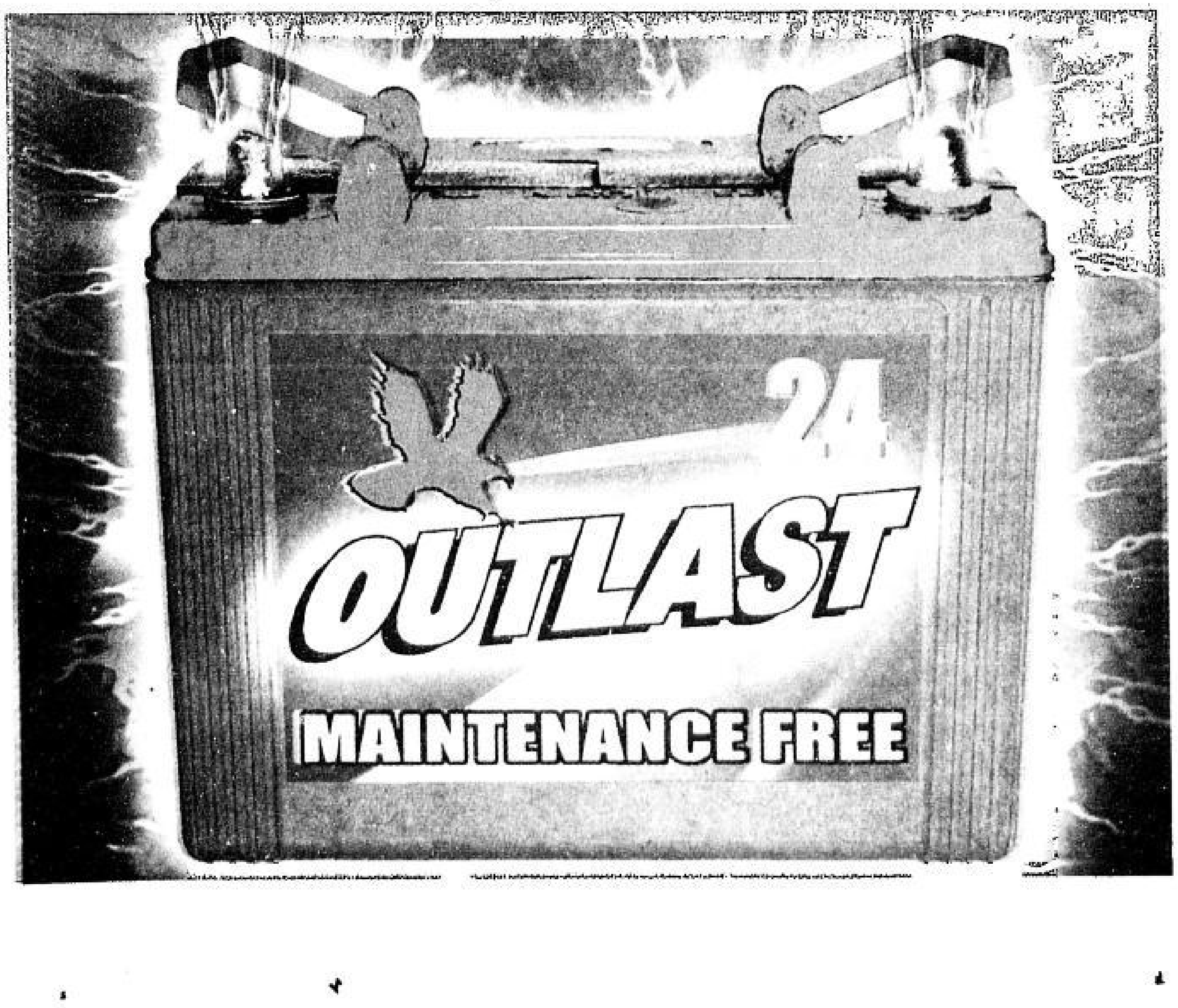
Vence admitted he didn't run after Lindawan anymore when the latter overtook him.

"My focus is on the SEA Games," said Vence.

Vence has already won one gold, two silvers and one bronze medals in previous SEA Games editions and is aiming for another medal in December.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K race advanced to the 42K grand finale set Nov. 18 in Manila but Vence and Buenavista, both Metro Manila leg winners, won't join because of their SEA Games training.

The 5K fun run was ruled by Edison Manansala, Ceasar Castaneto and Larry Mark Mendoza in the men's and Alice Kate Aparri, Josie Gabuco and Divina Kitongan in the distaff side. The winners in the 3K race for kids were Paul Pesigon II and Ara May Saysay (6-9) and Jonfrey Opendo and Cattlea Carreon (10-12).



Django, 3 more . . .

From page A33

Bustamante, the 43-year-old known as the heartbreak kid of this event, first scored a 9-4 win over South African Zbynek Vaic before returning early in the afternoon to win the first seven racks against the Korean on the way to the whitewash.

"I was trying to feel the table in my first match," Bustamante, the 2001 runner-up to Earl Strickland, said in Filipino. "I got a total feel of it (in my second match) and everything just went my way, I guess.

"But there's still a long way to go and anything can still happen."

Oliver Ortmann of Germany also came out of the "Group of Death" smiling, marching on after victories over Pham Tuan Ngoc of Vietnam, 9-1, and Deuel, 9-6.

"Sorry about that," Deuel, possibly the brightest American hope in the event, said casually when informed that he was the first foreigner to claim a Filipino scalp. "But it was a great match."

Ramil Gallego also made it to the knockout phase, going unscathed and clinching his spot with a 9-1 thrashing of Group 7 top seed Chang Jung-lin of Taipei.

Gallego earlier ripped Singapore's Chan Keng-Kwang, 9-4.

Lee Vann Corteza then made it 4-of-5 for the day, scoring a controversial 9-4 decision of Taiwanese Chang Pei-wei and a similar 9-4 rout of Jeremy Jones of the United States to become the second Group 8 qualifier after Mika Immonen of Finland.

That group had more than its share of controversy after Immonen almost got into a fight with Jones, whom he beat, 9-6, to march on. Both engaged in a series of trash-talking that almost ignited a fistfight.

Three more Filipinos see action today, with Marlon Manalo opening his Group 14 stint opposite Serb Dejan Dabovic and Leonardo Andam squaring off with last year's runner-up Ralf Souquet of Germany. Jeff De Luna also gets going against Sandor Tot of Serbia.

The last two of the 15 Filipinos entered—Dennis Orcollo and Robert Gomez—don't play until tomorrow.

Indonesian Muhammad Zulfikri and Croat Philip Stojanovic were the others to qualify from Pagulayan's group, with Zulfikri sealing his slot after a 9-1 win over David Alcaide of Spain. Stojanovic nipped Martian Kemper of Austria in their rubber match, 9-5.

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Marquez fails to impress Pacquiao

IT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE TITLE DEfense for World Boxing Council (WBC) super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez yesterday but it made no impression at all to the man he wanted to impress most.

Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao told Ronnie Nathanielsz of Philboxing.com in a telephone interview that Marquez was "slow and had no real power" minutes after the Mexican retained his crown with a unanimous decision win over Rocky Juarez in Tucson, Arizona.

Marquez, defending his title for the first time after dethroning fellow Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera early in the year, counter-punched his way en route to a 118-110, 117-111, 120-108 victory.

"*Kayang kaya ko* (I can take him easily)," Pacquiao stressed as he exuded confidence of a victory in a possible rematch with Marquez.

Pacquiao, who was interviewed by Nathanielsz from his house in General Santos City where he watched the fight, also noted that Marquez failed to finish off the smaller Juarez inside the distance despite connecting with solid shots in the latter rounds.

As expected, Marquez wasted no time in challenging Pacquiao, who only last month outclassed Barrera in their rematch.

"I had great preparation for this fight," Marquez told the media after the fight. "I have worked very hard for four months, and now I want Manny Pacquiao, but he doesn't want to fight me."

The WBC had earlier ruled that Marquez should next face Pacquiao in a mandatory showdown should he get past Juarez.

Pacquiao and Marquez fought to a draw in their first fight in 2004 after the Mexican survived three knockdowns in the first round.

The Filipino ring icon said he expects to fight again early next year with his handlers now looking at several prospects.

Pacquiao, who many consider as the world's best fighter, has been called out left and right by different fighters lately, ranging from featherweights, super featherweights and even the lightweights.

Even former Olympic gold medalist and world champion Joel Casamayor has called out Pacquiao, while some camps have expressed interest in a possible Oscar De La Hoya-Pacquiao showdown. *With a report from Salven Lagumbay*

Boxing wake-up call in Chicago

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S EASY TO SAY NICE things about boxer Harry Tañamor, who dared break away from a sleepy, losing system to make it to his third Olympics.

He loomed skeletal, drained when he shed his red head gear after a dominant stand against his younger Thai rival in the semifinals of the World Championship that earned him a slot in next year's Beijing Olympics.

The mesticillo pride of Zamboanga, visibly overworked, had represented the Philippines in both the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics.

But the best he has earned, as the lone qualifier from the 7-man RP squad, was another wild shot at the elusive Olympic medal, nothing more.

* * *

So how did he do it?

Tañamor bared he had to box differently, unlike most of his teammates.

"*May mga binago, takbo, suntok, tago, diskarte, hindi puro sugod* (I used new moves, run, punch, retreat, create openings, attack," Tañamor bared after his clinching win.

He was interviewed for the INQUIRER by Chicago-based entrepreneur Rolando Hiso who, with his gang, helped members of the RP squad with their various needs during the tournament.

However, Hiso said Tañamor was speechless moments after losing to younger, masterful Zou Shiming of China in yesterday's light flyweight final.

"*Talo talaga siya*, no complaint," Hiso, a former national cycling team standout, reported.

* * *

Tañamor has every reason to be frustrated.

He fought gallantly for what could've been RP's first gold medal in the World Championship.

But, without meaning to slight the veteran campaigner, his defeat at the hands of the sharp, wily Zou, could be a blessing disguise.

A gold medal win would've sent our amateur boxing officials celebrating and claming success in their Chicago mission.

There would have been something like a ticker-tape welcome, bands, banners, etc.

* * *

At least, there's consolation in the possibility that, with practically all the RP bets falling on the wayside, the debacle in Chicago could finally open the eyes of these officials, the same bunch that had to wonder out loud what went wrong after returning empty-handed from both the Olympiads in Sydney and Athens.

* * *

In reaching the gold medal bout, Tañamor had demonstrated that the RP boxing team, perennial top hope for Olympic medals, must break away from a shallow system that had yielded nothing but rotten eggs from the Olympics in nearly a decade.

Despite having allowed the gold medal to slip, Tañamor had delivered the clear message that changes in the national amateur boxing set-up must be thorough and truly pertinent.

At least, this time they did not have to wait and return from the Beijing Summer Games with another tired diagnosis, the way they had done in both Sydney and Athens.

The wake-up call has come much ahead.

* * *

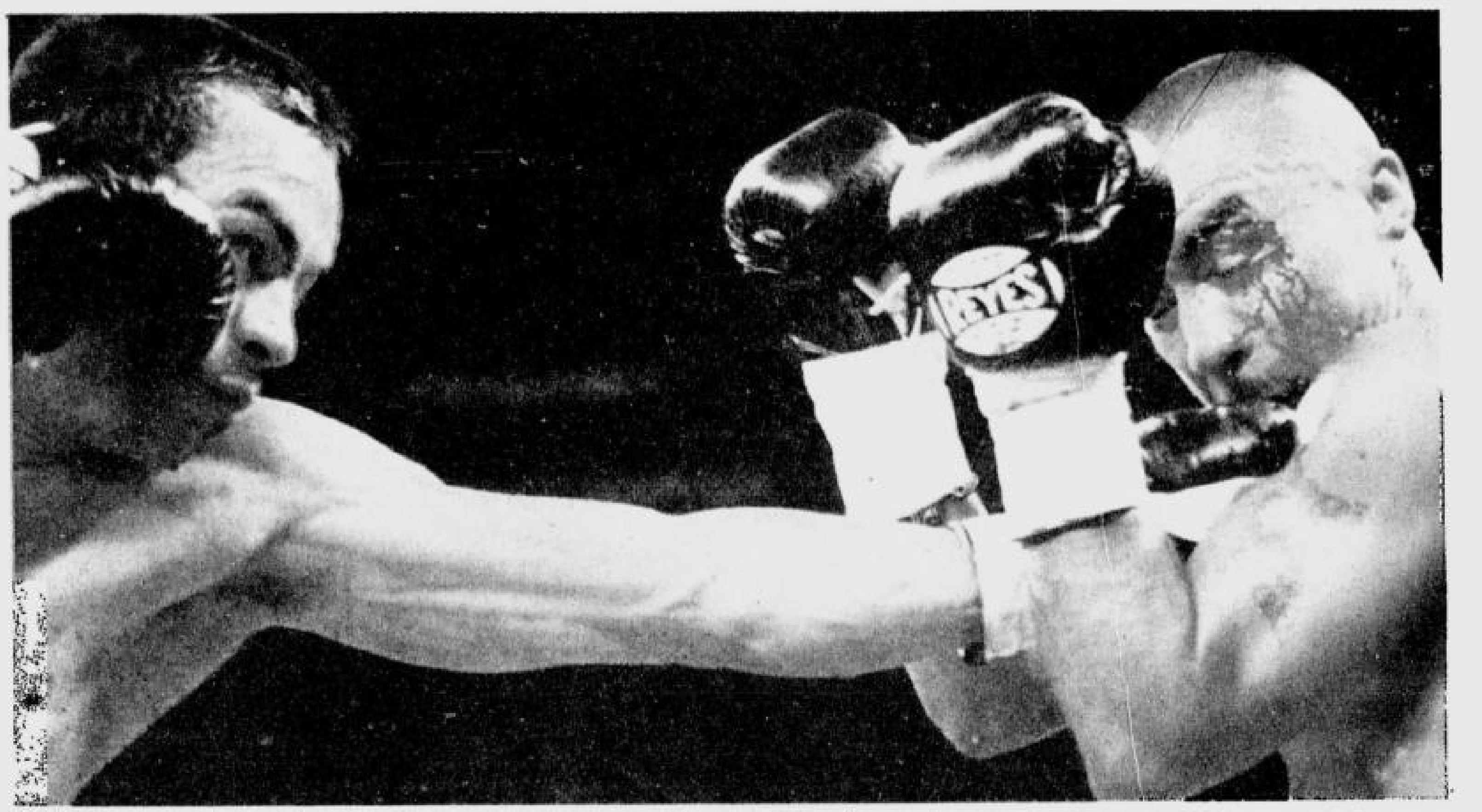
It's like this. If the likes of flyweight Violito Payla, a certified slugger, cannot be converted into a thinking, calculating boxer, if he can't be cured of his urge to out-muscle instead of outsmart and outpoint his opponents, there should be drastic changes in the team composition, no matter how late.

The reasons behind successive boxing debacles are too huge and clear to be overlooked.

It's odd, however, that top officials of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), who continue to work as a clique, have had to be repeatedly roused from deep slumber.

They rely on a loose program that leaves so much to luck and chance.

In fact, that wake-up call in Chicago may not be enough to send them on their toes.



JUAN Manuel Marquez (left) slips a jab past Rocky Juarez in the second round of their WBC super featherweight title bout in Tucson, Arizona. AP

Manuel rips Rocky, wants Pacman

TUCSON, ARIZONA—JUAN MANUEL Marquez defended his World Boxing Council super featherweight title with a 12-round decision over Rocky Juarez at the Desert Diamond Casino here on Saturday.

Marquez, who suffered a hand injury in training which led to a postponement, won on all three judges scorecards, 118-110, 117-111, 120-108.

Marquez (48-3-1 35 KOs) is hoping his victory leads to a rematch with Filipino fireball Manny Pacquiao.

Juarez (27-4, 19 KOs) suffered a cut over his left eye in the first round and couldn't stop the bleeding for the entire fight. Juarez won the silver medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics.

"I had great preparation for this fight," Marquez said. "I have worked very hard for four months, and now I want Manny Pacquiao, but he doesn't want to fight me."

The 27-year-old American Juarez suffered his third loss in five fights.

"This is the first fight that I got cut and had blurred vision because of it," Juarez said. "I knew from the second when we bumped heads that it was going to be bad.

"Never at one point did I want to stop the fight. The cut did affect me though, because it throws off your game plan. You're worried about knocking heads again, so it limits your strategy."

Marquez defeated Mexican compatriot Marco Antonio Barrera in March to claim the crown.

Pacquiao sent Marquez to the canvas three times in the first round of their 2004 bout but had to settle for a draw.

On the undercard, IBF world featherweight champion Robert Guerrero scored a first round knockout of Martin Honorio.

Guerrero connected with a straight left that put Honorio on the canvas after just 56 seconds. *AFP*

RP five revamp looms in tomorrow's meeting

By Jasmine W. Payo

NORWOOD

A REVAMP MAY BE IN THE offing for the national basketball team set to see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

The Harbour-Philippine team absorbed its second loss playing as a guest squad in the Philippine Basketball League recently, prompting team officials to set an emergency meeting tomorrow with BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas president Manny V. Pangilinan.

"The defeat is alarming since other countries, especially Malaysia, Indonesia and host Thailand, are preparing hard for the coming SEA Games," said Mikee Romero, Harbour Centre owner and project director of the SEAG squad.

Aside from tapping more amateur stars, the Nationals are hoping to acquire players from the pro ranks.

"We have to address the problem of the team this early and we plan to submit our proposals to the board on Tuesday," said Romero.

The Air21 Express have already offered the services of Ranidel de Ocampo—who suited up for the all-pro national team in the Fiba Asia championship in Tokushima, Japan—and key players Arwind Santos, Wynne Arboleda and slam dunk champion KG Canaleta.

The move, though, is subject to the PBA board's approval.

Several amateur standouts were also listed for possible inclusion during Romero's meeting yesterday with PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, national team coach Junel Baculi and team coordinator Erick Arejola.

Expected to give Baculi "more options" are Hapee's Fil-Am sensation Gabe Norwood, La Salle's Rico Maierhofer and JV Casio, UE's Mark Borboran and Elmer Espiritu, Ateneo's Chris Tiu, Hapee's Reed Juntilla and Harbour Centre's Al Vergara.

Norwood said in a recent interview with the INQUIRER that he has yet to receive an invite from the national team.

"We're willing to accept all the help we can get, in whatever capacity," said Baculi, who only has a month left to train the national team.

Only Jason Castro, Beau Belga, ex-pro Alex Crisano and Chad Alonzo have delivered notable performances for the national squad, which Baculi said "lacks killer instinct" and "needs to work on defense."

Other personalities invited to join Romero and Pangilinan in the emergency meeting are BAP-SBP officials led by vice chair Ricky Vargas, executive director Patrick Gregorio, treasurer Christian Tan and La Salle coach and national youth mentor Franz Pumaren.

The Harbour-RP Team's PBL record fell to 3-2 after a loss to Hapee, 78-73, last Saturday. The Nationals also dropped their opening-day match versus Harbour Centre, 83-74.

"We can't relax because it's our honor which is at stake in the SEA Games," said Romero. "We have to protect our legacy and keep our winning tradition in the SEA Games."

SPORTSWATCH

PSA Forum tomorrow

WOMEN POWER SWEEPS TOMORROW'S PSA forum at the Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch as the country's top bets in beach volleyball and powerlifting grace the weekly session.

Fil-Am volleybelles Diane Pascua and Heidi Ilustre and World Masters powerlifting record holder Erlina Pecante will appear in the public sports program aired live over DZSR Sports Radio 918 and sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor.

UGBA 9-stag derby

THE METRO MANILA ELIMINATIONS OF UGBA Heritage Cup National 9-Stag Derby 2007 starts today at San Juan Coliseum, with some 70 matches lined up.

Rene Diaz, president of the United Gamecock Breeders Associations (UGBA) said today's competition is exclusive only to members of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA).

Another qualifying round featuring LGBA members will be staged on Wednesday at SJC, while the eliminations on Nov. 10 and 17 are open to other breeders.

Bakbakan today

FOUR DAYS OF TOPNOTCH STAGFIGHTing action begins today as the NFGB National Bakbakan 10- stag derby takes centerstage at the Makati Coliseum.

Three-stag eliminations will be held today and on Nov. 7 and 8, said Ricoy Palmares, president of the National Federation of Gamecock Breeders (NFGB).

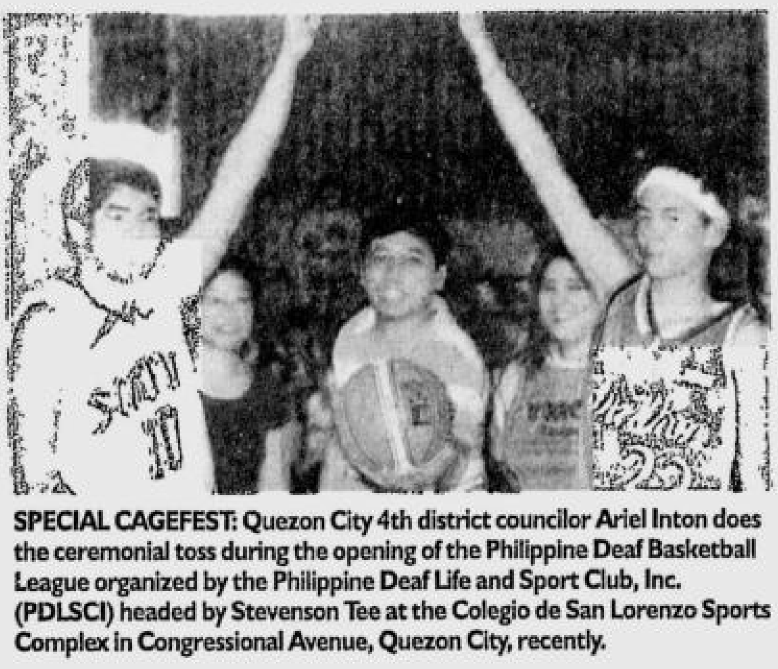
Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. said members of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines(PCAP) will also field entries today.

Ruel, Cuarto hurdle PCA Open rivals

THIRD SEED ROLANDO RUEL JR. and Cris Cuarto scored contrasting wins Saturday to reach the second round in the 26th Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the Club's indoor courts.

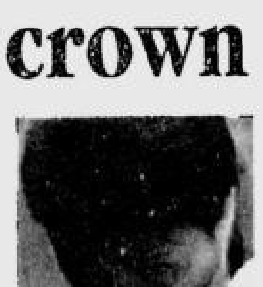
Ruel, a former RP Davis Cupper, defeated Mario Sabas, 6-3, 6-4, to advance against World Juniors campaigner Joshua Tan Ho, who bested PCA Open Junior champ Mark Balce, 6-1, 6-2.

Cuarto, coach of the SEAG-bound RP women's team, rallied to beat Kyle Dandan, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, and arrange a duel with Joseph Victorino.



SPECIAL CAGEFEST: Quezon City 4th district councilor Ariel Inton does the ceremonial toss during the opening of the Philippine Deaf Basketball League organized by the Philippine Deaf Life and Sport Club, Inc. (PDLSCI) headed by Stevenson Tee at the Colegio de San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City, recently.

Gabica seeks 3rd Mixed Doubles crown



GABICA LYN RILLON

ANTONIO "GAGA" GABICA EYES his third local title this year when he competes in the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Mixed Doubles: Beauty and the Best 9-Ball Championship at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) in Zambales.

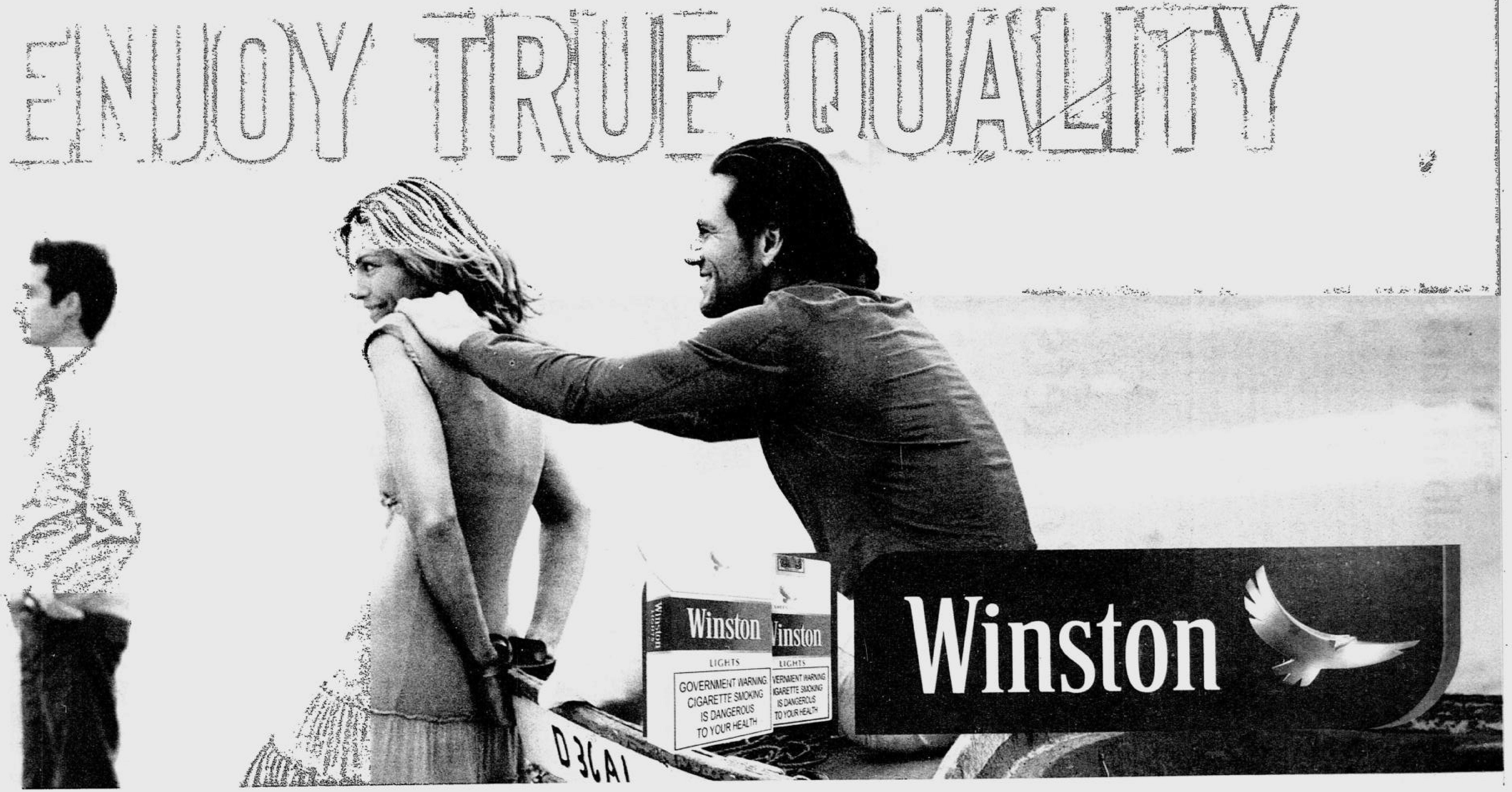
The 35-year-old Gabica recently ruled the 4th San Miguel Beer 9-Ball Open where he pocketed P500,000. He also topped the SMC-BSCP 9-Ball Ranking Tournament.

Supported by Makisig Channel 76, IBC 13 in close cooperation with sportsman Edwin Rodriguez, the event set on Nov. 24 will feature eight professional players teaming up with eight gorgeous ramp models. It will coincide with the celebration of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) Congress.

Rodriguez intends to hold a billiard tilt in Sacred Heart, Quezon City, to discover future world champions in the likes of Ronato Alano (2006), Alex Pagulayan (2004) and Efren "Bata" Reyes (1999).

Other players invited to play in the event are Dennis Orcollo, Ronnie Alcano, Jeffrey De Luna, Roberto Gomez, Gandy Valle, Jharome Pena and Carlo Biado.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor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Nadal, Nalbandian set up Paris battle

RAFAEL Nadal: First championship match in three months. REUTERS

PARIS—RAFAEL NADAL WILL PLAY David Nalbandian in the Paris Masters final, and Richard Gasquet clinched the last place for the season-ending Masters Cup despite losing his semifinal match.

Second-seeded Nadal beat Marcos Baghdatis, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, Saturday and Nalbandian defeated 10th-seeded Gasquet, 6-2, 6-4.

But Gasquet already had enough points for the Nov. 11-18 event in Shanghai before stepping onto the court because Baghdatis had lost.

Nalbandian is going for a second straight Masters title Sunday after winning in Madrid last month, where he dominated Nadal, 6-1, 6-2, in the quarterfinals.

The Argentine doesn't expect it to be as easy this time.

"I think here is a little different than Madrid," Nalbandian said. "It's a little slow, and it's maybe a little bit better for him."

Nadal, who reached his first final since July 22, said his form has improved since that loss.

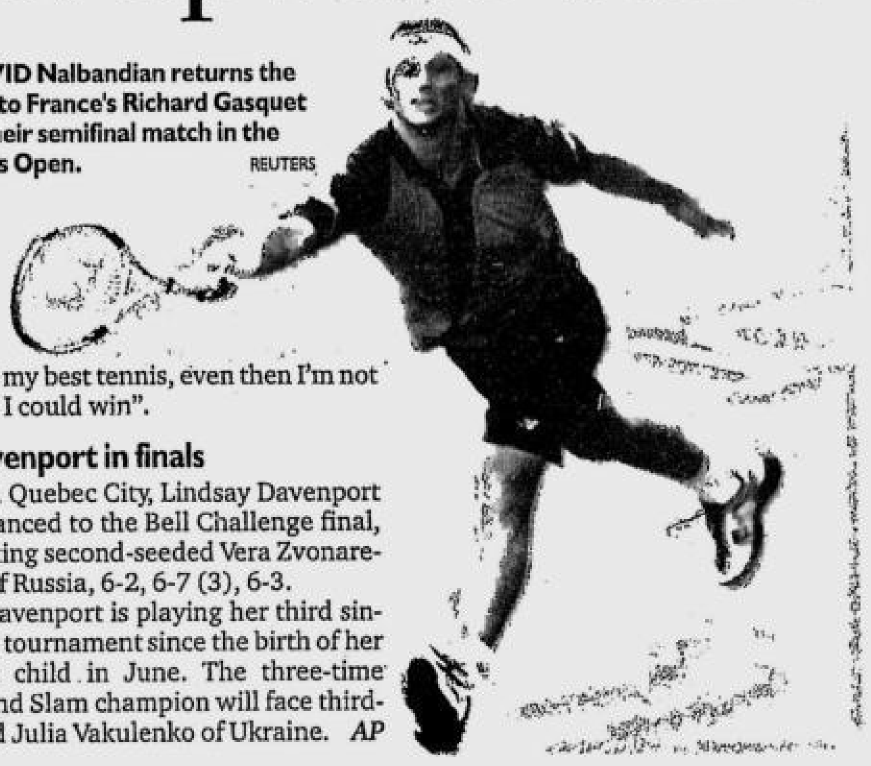
"My expectations were only to play well, so I didn't think about the final," Nadal said. "I said before the tournament that I just wanted to play good because my goal was to finish the season with good feelings. Today I started playing very good."

Gasquet accepted he was "a level under" Nalbandian.

"I'm not sure I played a player as good as he is," Gasquet said. "Even when I played (Roger) Federer six times I never felt that way."

Nalbandian showed that his backhand is back to its brutal best after a fifth straight win over Gasquet.

"Backhand, forehand, he really plays well," Gasquet said. "Even if I play my best tennis, even then I'm not sure I could win".



DAVID Nalbandian returns the ball to France's Richard Gasquet in their semifinal match in the Paris Open. REUTERS

Davenport in finals

In Quebec City, Lindsay Davenport advanced to the Bell Challenge final, beating second-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia, 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-3.

Davenport is playing her third singles tournament since the birth of her first child in June. The three-time Gland Slam champion will face third-seed Julia Vakulenko of Ukraine. *AP*

Defensive Rockets blast Blazers, gain 3-0 start

HOUSTON—THE HOUSTON ROCKets have a new-look, fast-paced offense under Coach Rick Adelman.

For a half on Saturday night, the defense looked as stingy as it did under Jeff Van Gundy.

Yao Ming had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Tracy McGrady added 20 points and six assists as the Rockets improved to 3-0 for the first time since the 1996-97 season with an 89-80 win over Portland.

Yao scored only eight points and McGrady only five in the second half, but the Rockets stayed in control with their defense, forcing 18 turnovers and holding the Blazers to 41 percent shooting (31 of 76).

Portland started making baskets when the outcome was decided. The Blazers trailed by 15 at the break after shooting 29.7 percent (11 of 37) and committing 13 turnovers in the first half.

"We made 'em take tough shots, we contested a lot of jumpers, we kept them out of the paint," said McGrady, who had one of Houston's eight steals.

Brandon Roy scored 23 and former Texas star LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 for Portland, off to its first 0-3 start since the 1986-87 season.

Following a 47-point effort at Utah on Thursday, McGrady started 4-for-8, then went 4-for-15 the rest of the way. Yao went 2-for-7 in the second half and even missed a dunk.

The Rockets never needed big games from either All-Star because the Blazers were off-target from the start.

Houston opened with an 18-4 run as Portland missed 14 of its first 17 shots. Yao and McGrady scored 20 points together in the first quarter as Houston built a 25-12 lead.

In their first two games, the Rockets fell behind early in Los Angeles and Utah and rallied to win both times.

"We came out better," McGrady said. "The last two games, we've been kind of flat. For the most part, we came out ready to roll in that first quarter."

Yao flipped in a turnaround jumper to start a 9-0 burst that pushed the lead over 20 early in the second quarter. Yao hit six of his first eight shots.

The Blazers cut Houston's lead to 15 before McGrady returned after a long rest. He hit two long jumpers, then drove through traffic for another basket to stretch the lead to 42-23.

"We need to get off to a better start," Roy said. "We can't dig such a big hole against a team that is as good as Houston."

Channing Frye and Aldridge scored inside in the first minute of the third quarter as Portland closed the deficit to 11. The Rockets missed their first five shots before Chuck Hayes made a layup off an assist from McGrady.

The Blazers hit 7 of their first 9 shots after the break and Roy's pull-up jumper with 6:03 left in the third quarter pulled Portland to within eight, at 54-46. Out of a time out, McGrady found Luis Scola for an easy layup to restore the double-digit lead.

Portland missed its last eight shots of the third quarter and Houston led 62-46 heading to the fourth.

Though the Blazers couldn't cut into their deficit, Coach Nate McMillan liked what he saw from his team out of half time.

"They came out with fire and fight and were much more aggressive in the second half," he said.

Roy scored to end the Blazers' drought, but Mike James answered with a long jumper from the wing. James was 3-for-7 from 3-point range and scored 17 for Houston.

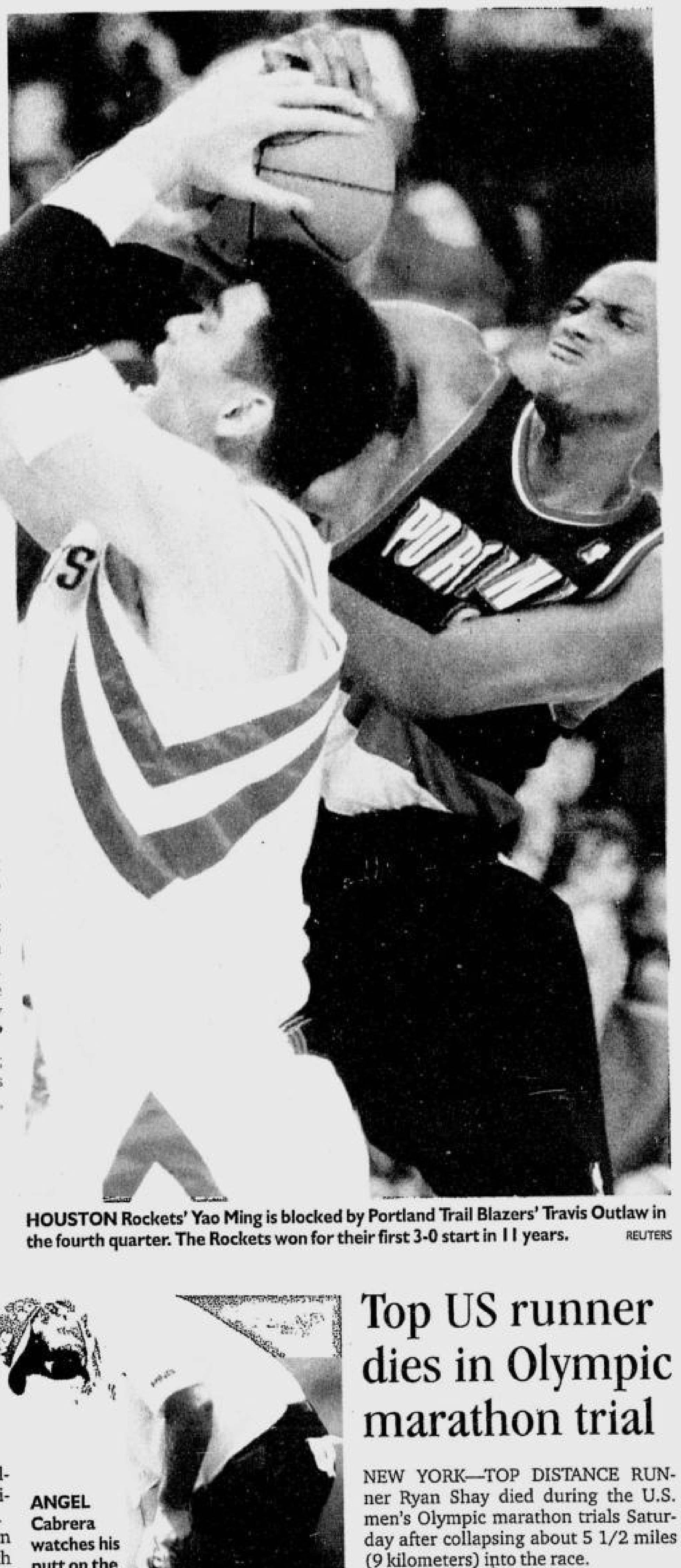
The teams virtually traded baskets until Aldridge scored twice to cut the deficit to eight in the final two minutes. McGrady finished off Portland with a three-pointer from the wing with 1:25 left that put the Rockets up 83-72.

The Blazers failed to reach 20 points in any of the first three quarters, then outscored Houston 34-27 in the fourth.

"I'm not satisfied with the way we executed down the stretch," McGrady said. *AP*

COMPLETE RESULTS: Magic 94, Wizards 82; Nets 93, 76ers 88; Pacers 121, Grizzlies 111; Bucks 78, Bulls 72; Mavericks 123, Kings 102; Jazz 133, Warriors 110

NBA on Basketball TV
7 a.m.—Charlotte vs Miami (replay 6:30 p.m.)
10:30 a.m.—Utah vs L.A. Lakers (replay 9 p.m.)



HOUSTON Rockets' Yao Ming is blocked by Portland Trail Blazers' Travis Outlaw in the fourth quarter. The Rockets won for their first 3-0 start in 11 years. REUTERS

A-Rod to Yankees: Let's talk $350M

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK Yankees were told $350 million was the starting point for discussions about retaining Alex Rodriguez before the slugger declared himself a free agent, local newspapers reported on Saturday.

Citing club and major league sources, local media reported that agent Scott Boras told the Yankees it would take at least a $350-million extension to Rodriguez's deal, which had three years remaining on the original 10-year, $252-million agreement.

The two sides never met face-to-face on an extension and Boras announced during Game Four of the World Series that Rodriguez was exercising an escape clause in the deal originally signed with Texas to declare himself a free agent.

The Yankees had planned to offer Rodriguez, 32, a five-year extension for about $150 million, club sources said.

Rodriguez had 10 days from the end of the World Series as a deadline for becoming a free agent.

He had a stellar season, leading the majors with 54 home runs and 156 runs batted in. *Reuters*

Calzaghe grabs WBA, WBC belts

CARDIFF, WALES—UNDEFEATED JOE Calzaghe seized Mikkel Kessler's WBA and WBC world titles on Sunday and is once again surrounded by super-middleweight belts.

Unanimously outpointing a previously undefeated Dane seven years his junior, the 35-year-old Welshman once again proved he gets better as he gets older. He shook off the Dane's powerful right hands and finished strongly for his 44th victory in a row and 21st defense of the WBO title dating back 10 years.

"To win the four major title belts, to be the unbeaten champion and 10 years a champion, it's just amazing and I'm so proud," said Calzaghe, who said it could well be his final fight at 168 pounds before he finishes his career as a light-heavyweight.

"An extra seven pounds at this stage in my career—10 years a champion; four major belts—what else is there to do? Dig all those guys up—Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins, come on let's do it.

"I want to fight the big fights and hopefully this will set this up for the big fight and Hopkins will come out of hiding."

Calzaghe closed with three standout rounds at the Millennium Stadium to unify the three titles in front of 35,000 of his fans.

After both fighters traded big shots and combinations in all 12 rounds, the three judges gave the decision to Calzaghe. Raul Caiz scored it 117-111, fellow American John Stewart had it 116-112 and Massimo Barrovecchio of Italy scored it 116-112. *AP*

Cabrera nips Singh; RP golfers way off

SINGAPORE—ANGEL CABRERA OF Argentina lifted the $4-million Singapore Open title after fending off a spirited Vijay Singh of Fiji by one shot in a thrilling duel on Sunday.

The big-hitting Cabrera birdied the last hole on a sun-baked Serapong course at Sentosa Golf Club to add to his US Open success, closing out Asia's richest national Open with a one-over-par 72 and an eight-under-par 276 winning total.

Singh, who started the day six off the lead, mounted a brave title charge with a new course record 67 but came up just short at the end against a man who wowed the week's record galleries of nearly 32,000 spectators with his power play.

Angelo Que emerged the best Filipino finisher at joint 33rd, firing a final-round two-over 73 for a 294 total.

Mars Pucay and amateur champion Anthony Fernando were tied with three others at 41st spot at 295; Juvic Pagunsan settled for joint 52nd at 297; and Tony Lascuña finished at joint 62nd with a 300 aggregate.

Title holder Adam Scott of Australia ended up third following a 71, finishing five behind the new champion while American rookie Jin Park enjoyed his biggest payday by finishing fourth in the star-studded event with a closing 74.

Asia's best finisher was burly Thai Prom Meesawat, sixth on 284 after a 71. *Asian Tour News*

ANGEL Cabrera watches his putt on the third green during the Singapore Open final round. REUTERS

Top US runner dies in Olympic marathon trial

NEW YORK—TOP DISTANCE RUNner Ryan Shay died during the U.S. men's Olympic marathon trials Saturday after collapsing about 5 1/2 miles (9 kilometers) into the race.

Shay was taken to Lenox Hill Hospital and was pronounced dead, New York Road Runners president Mary Wittenberg said. He was 28.

"It cuts a knife through everybody's hearts," said Wittenberg.

Shay's father, Joe, said his son was first diagnosed with a larger than normal heart at age 14.

The elder Shay told The Associated Press his son was cleared for running this spring by doctors but was told he might have need of a pacemaker when he is older. *AP*

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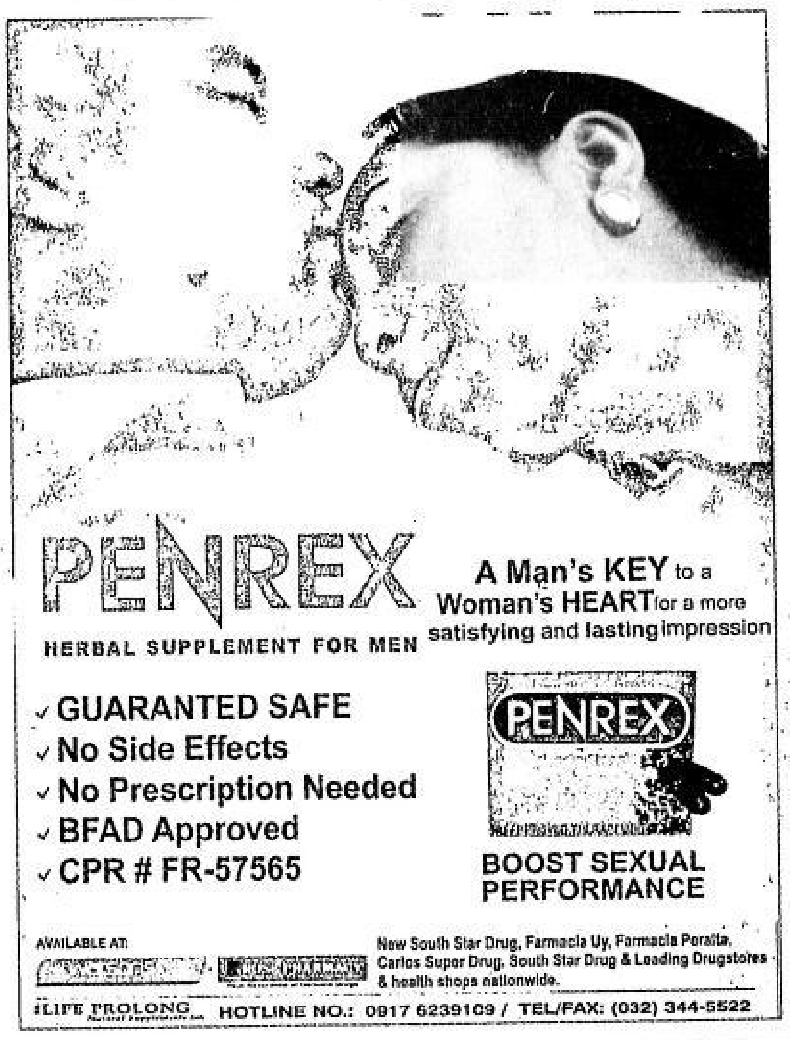
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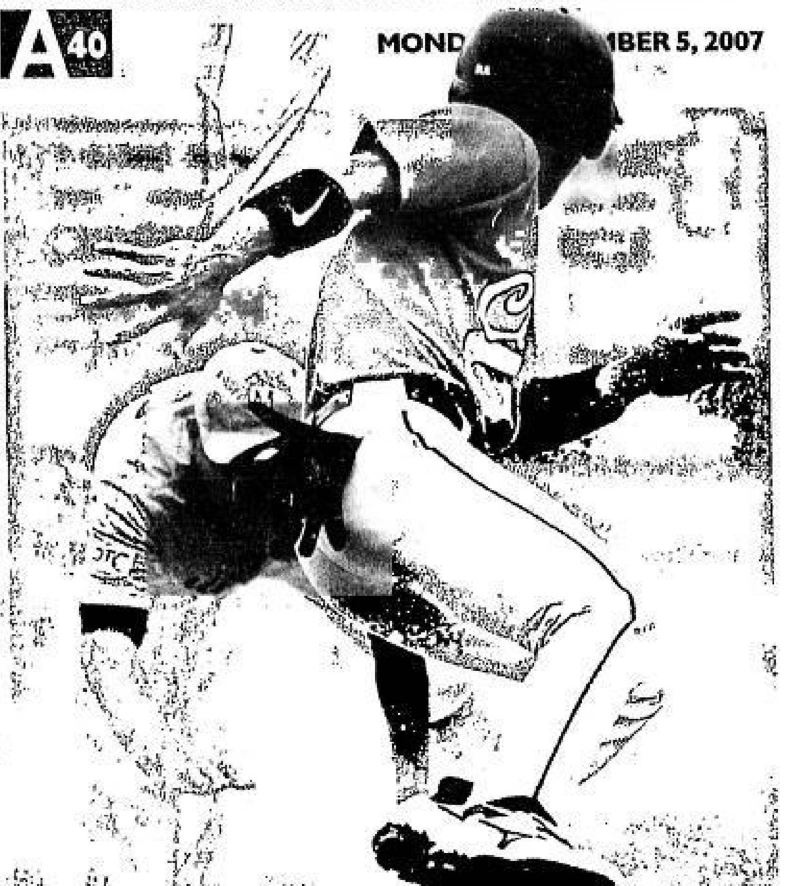
CRIS Jimenez of the Makati Mariners dives to beat the throw to third baseman Fulgencio Rances of the Cebu Dolphins. RODEL ROTONI

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Roxas' solo homer lifts Manila IX

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GAMES SUNDAY (*Rizal Field*)
7 a.m.—Makati vs Cebu
10:30 a.m.—Dumaguete vs Marikina
2 p.m.—Manila vs Taguig

VIRGILIO ROXAS BROKE UP THE DUEL between national team pitchers with a solo home run in the first extra inning that carried Manila to a dramatic 2-1 triumph over Taguig in the Baseball Philippines Series 2 at the Rizal Memorial field.

The 29-year-old slugger sent Ernesto Binarao's second pitch far into the left field stands to break the 1-1 standoff the Sharks forced in the bottom of the ninth inning on a run-scoring single by Marvin Malig.

With its third straight win, Manila moved up to a tie for second at 3-2 with Marikina even as Cebu improved its leading slate to 4-1 after routing defending champion Makati, 11-4, behind a six-run explosion in the seventh inning.

Earlier, Dumaguete exploded with three runs in the sixth inning and went on to post a 6-2 win over Marikina and raised its record to 2-3.

Taguig suffered its third straight loss for a 1-4 mark.

"I was waiting for it," said Roxas of the Binarao sinker that he smashed to post the second homer of the series and the third in the league since his first-ever home run last July.

Charlie Labrador struck out 11 and issued seven hits for Manila as he outdueled fellow Philippine team pitcher Binarao, who pitched four and 2/3 innings after taking over from Roel Empacis.

Binarao had eight strikeouts while yielding six hits including Malig's key single to the centerfield in the ninth that sent home Rommel Roja.

Taguig's Rizel Santos earlier drove home Ferdinand Recto for the game's initial run on top of the ninth.

Golfest stakes BMW for ace

THE 11TH ORCHARD FOUNDERS INVITAtional golf tournament reels off on Nov. 22-25 with an array of attractive prizes that include a 2007 BMW 116i as a hole-in-one prize.

Also up for grabs are two Business Class tickets to the West Coast packaged with a cruise to Baja, Mexico, aboard a luxury liner as grand raffle prize for participants, compliments of Philippine Airlines and Baron Travel.

The BMW is at stake on all eight par three holes, four each at the Palmer and Player courses. Tournament raffle prizes with a value of P1.5 million await the participant during the Thursday and Friday cocktails and the awards night on Sunday.

If nobody scores an ace in the four-day competition, anyone who buys a P2,500 raffle ticket will still have a chance to drive home either a BMW 320i or a BMW 116i, which are the grand raffle prize on top of other major prizes like a home theater and LCD TVs.

SLAM DUNKER: Air21 mainstay and many time slam dunk champ KG Canaleta (right) pays a courtesy call on Federal Tyres sales manager for Asia Norman Ching and Federal Tyres head Ronnie Co recently.

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BSP, gov't OK bond offering to OFWs

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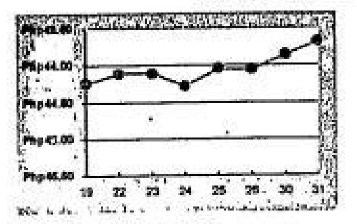

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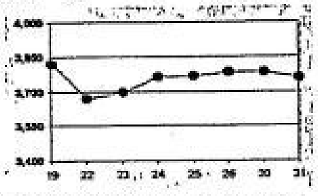
Sharp Dow drop seen dragging stocks



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO take their cue from third-quarter earnings this week and Wall Street's sharp selloff last Thursday, analysts said.

However, local interest rate cuts may provide some temporary boost in the stock market during the week, traders added.

American financial giant Citigroup sees the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cutting further its benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points when its policy-making Monetary Board meets on Nov. 15.

Stock investors are expected to shrug off a widely anticipated quarter-point interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve during its meeting last Oct. 31.

"The way the market works is that it usually takes its cue from how the Dow (Jones) reacts and the Dow was down by 360 points during (last Thursday) as big banks got hit by downgrades," said

SHARP/B3

Initial size of $500M planned in early 2008

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas have agreed to offer pioneering retail treasury bonds to overseas Filipino workers worth at least $500 million starting early 2008.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters the government could initially launch $500 million to test the market, then issue another $500 million should OFWs show more appetite for these bonds. Or it could be as much as a $1-billion offering right away depending on market reception, he said.

"We will put together the package, hopefully before the year ends," Guinigundo said.

He said the national government had agreed "in principle" that an initial size of $500 million would be viable, noting that the $200-million size proposed by state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines was too small to make a significant contribution to the government's infrastructure outlays.

The offering will be carved out of the national government's existing refinancing requirements that could otherwise be sourced from the commercial market, he said.

Guinigundo said the retail treasury bonds would likely be auctioned off in the domestic market, targeting OFW money already placed in the banking system's foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs).

"If you offer abroad, there will be cross-border issues so the offering must be here," Guinigundo said. "But you can

BSP/B2

Korean firm keen on nuke plant in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

KOREAN GOVERNMENT-RUN Korea Electric Power Corp. is now in "unofficial" talks with the Philippine government regarding the possible re-firing of the mothballed 620-megawatt (MW) Bataan Nuclear Power Plant or the establishment of a new nuclear power facility.

In an interview with reporters, Kepco Asia business department director general Kyong-Goo Hur said the company had expressed interest to develop a nuclear power facility in the Philippines as early as several years ago.

"Kepco sent a letter suggesting to study and research the introduction of a nuclear power plant in the Philippines a couple of years ago, but the government has yet to send its response. Probably the government thinks it will take some time. They understand the difficulties of the public acceptance issue, considering the experience with the Bataan plant," he said.

Despite that, he said Kepco was still open to the idea of helping the country tap nuclear resources for power generation—whether by way of re-firing the BNPP or putting up an entirely new facility.

Talks with the Philippine government, however, were all "unofficial" at this point, he said.

KOREAN/B2

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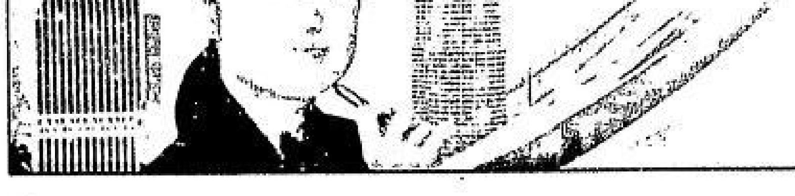
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Unequal incomes

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Cielito F. Habito

RECENTLY RELEASED RESULTS from the 2006 Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) reveal a disturbing finding: Filipinos' average real family income actually fell between 2003 and 2006. "Real" here means the data are adjusted for inflation—by valuing the incomes for both years using the same set of prices—so that one is not misled by the effect of rising prices. According to the FIES data, average family income in nominal terms (that is, expressed in the prevailing prices for those years) rose from P148,000 in 2003 to P172,000 in 2006, or a 16.2-percent rise. But prices rose by 19.6 percent in the same period, which means that the rising income still failed to catch up with the increase in prices. Thus, average family income in 2006, if measured in 2003 prices, would have been only P144,000, or lower by P4,000.

The average family incomes cited above are derived simply by dividing total family income by the total number of families (17.4 million in 2006). Thus it implicitly assumes that every family gets an equal slice of the GDP *bibingka*. But everyone knows that some get bigger slices than others, and that incomes in the Philippines are far from equal. Just how unequal are they?

There are at least three numerical indicators one can use to measure how even or uneven income distribution is in a country. Economists and statisticians commonly use a measure called the Gini coefficient, whose meaning is difficult to explain without resorting to graphs. Suffice it to say here that its value can vary between 0 and 1 (or 0 and 100 if expressed as a percentage). A value of zero denotes perfect equality (i.e. everyone gets an equal slice), while a value of 1 or 100 percent denotes absolute inequality (i.e. the richest family gets the entire *bibingka*). The lower the coefficient, the more equal income distribution is. The good news is that our Gini coefficient declined from 0.461 in 2003 to 0.456 in 2006, telling us that income distribution must have improved somewhat.

Income ratios

These coefficients are of little value to the common observer, who would find it difficult to visualize exactly how equal or unequal the income distribution is based on the number alone. It is for this reason that I prefer to use measures of inequality based on income ratios. Here, one can either measure the ratio of the incomes of the richest quintile (20 percent or one-fifth of the population) to the poorest quintile, or of the richest decile (10 percent or one-tenth) to the poorest decile.

The data show that the richest quintile had 11 times more income than the poorest quintile in 2006, a slight improvement from the 11.3 ratio in 2003. If based on deciles, the ratio was 19.2 in 2006, against 20.1 in 2003. That is, the richest 10 percent of Filipinos have about 20 times the income of the poorest 10 percent.

Wider gaps

The good news is that even while average family income fell from 2003 to 2006, income distribution improved slightly within the same period.

The bad news, though, is that income distribution had been even better in 1988, when the income ratio of the richest quintile to the poorest quintile was only 10 to 1, and that of the richest decile to the poorest decile was just 17.9 to 1. By 1991, these ratios had risen to 11.5 and 21 respectively, suggesting that income gaps widened through the Aquino administration. The early part of the Ramos administration appeared to have succeeded in narrowing the gap, with the top-to-bottom quintile and decile ratios declining to 10.6 and 18.7 respectively. But the respective ratios rose again to 12.6 and 23.1 in 1997, evidence that the Asian financial crisis hit the poor much more heavily than the rich. The Estrada years saw these ratios improving again somewhat to 12.5 and 22.6 by 2000, and improved further under Arroyo to 11.3 and 20.1 by 2003, and now 11 and 19.2 in the latest account. Still, we have yet to regain what we had already achieved 20 years ago!

International comparisons

How does our income distribution compare with other countries?

Our closest neighbors are actually doing better than us. Thailand's top-to-bottom quintile ratio is 8.6, with a Gini coefficient of 0.427 (all data cited are from a compilation by the World Bank). Vietnam is even more equitable, with corresponding ratio of only 6 and Gini coefficient of 0.368. Surprisingly, even poorer Asian countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are more equitable than ours, with ratios of 4 and 4.6, and Gini coefficients of 0.27 and 0.317 respectively. Japan, interestingly, is one of the most equitable societies in the world, with a top-to-bottom quintile ratio of 3.4, and a Gini coefficient of only 0.248 (as of the 1990s).

It may be of some consolation that the US has worse income distribution than ours, with a quintile ratio of 14.7 and Gini coefficient of 0.464 (as of 2004). But even worse are the Latin American countries. Brazil has a quintile ratio of 21 and Gini coefficient of 0.566; Chile has a ratio of 15.5 and Gini coefficient 0.546. And the rest of their neighbors have similar figures. But the prize for most inequitable of all goes to Zimbabwe in Africa, with a quintile ratio of a whopping 49 to 1, and Gini coefficient of 0.731.

No reason to be comfortable with what we have, nonetheless, as our own standards should be closer to home.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

BSP, gov't OK bond offering to OFWs

From page B1

market abroad but the payment should be made here."

The government is studying how the OFW bonds could be promoted abroad without violating the investor protection rules of host countries. The government is also studying whether the proposed bonds would be denominated in pesos or dollars.

Guinigundo said that if the government were to offer an initial $500 million, that would mean the government could raise the equivalent P20 billion through an auction worth P5 billion every first or second Tuesday of each month.

He said this strategy would no longer require the government to conduct overseas roadshows.

"What we'll do is to hold a widespread information campaign, put up good advertisement in newspapers, television and radio that there's such an OFW bond," Guinigundo said.

The proposed OFW bond issuance aims to channel more OFW inflows to economic development while giving OFW households lucrative investment outlets. These savings and investments are seen helping prepare OFWs for future reintegration into the Philippine economy and providing additional funding for government requirements, including for infrastructure development.

The BSP believes the government can raise $1 billion each year from these pioneering bonds based on the assumption that OFWs could set aside about 10 percent of their earnings for investments.

Based on an internal study by the BSP on remittances, the challenge with regard to the OFW remittance phenomenon—a big factor behind the peso's uptrend—was not so much the large flows coming in but in directing these private flows toward productive activities.

"While these are private transfers, the government can ensure that the policy environment is conducive to the use of these remittances for investments in productive activities such as entrepreneurial endeavors and investment in better healthcare, education and housing for the families of remitters," the BSP study said.

Contrary to the common belief that remittances flow in abundance whether in good times or bad, the BSP study also suggested that prospects of the local economy and the peso-dollar movement now influence overseas Filipinos' appetite to send money even more than the sheer commitment to help families back home.

"Policymakers should therefore not be drawn into complacency that remittances can comfortably help the economy weather economic downturns. There is no substitute for prudent macroeconomic policies," the study said.

Korean ...

From page B1

The biggest hurdle for the government to overcome, he said, was the lack of public acceptance for nuclear facilities because of the perceived dangers that these entailed.

One way for the government to overcome this issue—apart from ensuring that it had enough knowledge and skill to set up and run a nuclear power facility—was to prove to the people that this could significantly reduce power rates.

In the case of Korea, for example, he related that roughly 40 percent of its power supply came from nuclear sources. In effect, power rates in Korea are among the cheapest in the world.

"We have very low electricity tariffs compared to other advanced countries. So if you have nuclear power in the Philippines, current power rates can be reduced," he said.

For the past 14 years that Kepco had been engaged in nuclear power generation, he said no untoward incident has occurred. Not to mention that electricity rates had gone down significantly over those years.

"If you can manage the power plant efficiently and effectively, consumers will not have to worry about the security issues so much," he said.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government was seriously considering the possibility of going into nuclear power generation.

This, however, would take 15-20 years to accomplish.

"It takes 15-20 years to put up a nuclear power plant, around seven years of which would be spent on a comprehensive study as well as on building up our human resource pool," he said.

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Goldshine Pharmaceutical also recently signed a new contract with its biggest distributor, GNP Trading Corporation, to make sure that you can find Jimm's 5in1 Coffee in stores anytime, anywhere.

From GPI - Mr. Blu Ramirez - Distributor Specialist, Mr. John Arceo - Distributor Specialist, Ms. Jona Ramirez - Distributor Specialist, Mr. Sherman Foronda - Unit Sales Manager. From GNP: Mr. Cecil Clemente - VP-Sales & Distribution, Mr. Ernesto De Guzman - Sales Manager, Mr. Gem Encarnacion - Marketing Director of GPI, Mr. Jaime Serato - President/CEO of GPI, Mr. George Nocom Pua - President of GNP, Ms. Mina Maraya - Vice President of GNP

Mr. Jaime Serato, President of Goldshine Pharmaceuticals, and Mr. George Nocom Pua, President of GNP, signed the contract last 24 October 2007 at Promenade in Greenhills.

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Zest-O completes buyout of Dubai firm for ₱600M

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL BEVERAGE MANUFACTURER Zest-O Corp. has completed its acquisition of Dubai-based Arab Beverages Establishments (ABE), the world's biggest producer of fruit juice snack in doypack pouch, for P600 million.

Zest-O chair Alfredo Yao said the buyout of ABE, which uses packaging similar to his company's flagship brand Zest-O, was recently finalized and that his company was looking for other expansion opportunities abroad.

ABE produced the Capri-Sonne Fruit Juice, under license from Capri-Sun AG Switzerland, but the contract expired this year, prompting the Dubai company to look for a new group to continue its operations. Negotiations with Zest-O started late last year.

The Dubai manufacturer was founded in 1984 and alongside with producing Capri Sonne, it distributes Active O2, 'V' Energy Drink and Biophar Honey in the United Arab Emirates market. In Dubai, ABE has the capacity to produce at least 20,000 packets an hour.

Zest-O is the world's second biggest producer of natural fruit juice concentrate in doypack next to Capri Sonne, with flavors in orange, strawberry, pineapple, guyabano, mango, mango-orange, apple, grape, mango-calamansi, mango-lemonlime and calamansi. The company also produces the bottled iced tea brand One.

The Philippine company is likewise expanding elsewhere in the fast-growing Asian region, particularly in China, Indonesia and Vietnam. Prior to the Dubai deal, Zest-O has earlier purchased another beverage company in China.

Sharp Dow drop . . .

From page B1

Joseph Roxas, president at Eagle Equities Inc., said.

Several US analysts have issued research notes in recent days on concern about banks' and brokerages' exposure to the tight credit markets and the likelihood that further writedowns were in the offing.

Another major risk to the stock market is the surging crude oil price, which may temper corporate earnings and stoke inflation that could further push up borrowing costs in the future, some analysts said. World crude held at $94 a barrel over the weekend as concerns about tight supplies before winter capped a major selloff.

AB Capital Securities said in a daily note to clients that investors would also be looking at third-quarter earnings results, which should give investors a better feel on the market.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is set to hold a teleconference on Nov. 6 for its nine-month earnings results. Rival Globe Telecom is also holding an investors' briefing on Nov. 7 for its third-quarter results.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

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To ease impact of soaring oil, gov't set to cut import duties

But strong peso seen to temper effects of rise in world oil

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED TO slash import duties on oil once threshold price levels were reached, in an effort to ease the impact of soaring oil costs on domestic commodity prices.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government's economic team has agreed to cut oil tariffs if prices continue to soar to avoid buildup of inflationary pressures.

He said the 3-percent duty on imported oil would be cut to 2 percent, using an exchange rate of P48 to a dollar, once Dubai crude reaches $91.92, and diesel hits $94.10 a barrel.

Teves noted though that, as of the end of October, the trigger prices have not been reached yet. Dubai was still at $84.52 a barrel, he said.

The finance chief added that the import tariff would be slashed further to only one percent once Dubai crude hits $104.83.

Teves said the trigger prices for a reduction in import duties were determined based on a formula that would yield no revenue loss for the government. The foregone potential revenues resulting from the tariff cut would be offset by the additional duty revenues arising from the increase in prices, he explained.

Oil prices in the world market has been on the rise amid fresh concerns of a supply shortage with the entry of the winter months, and perceived resistance from major oil producers to increase output.

Rising oil prices raised concerns on its effect on the purchasing power of Filipinos, with the Philippines importing bulk of its oil requirements.

The government's economic managers, however, said the increase in oil prices was still not as alarming as many perceived. They noted that the bullish peso was offsetting the impact of higher oil prices.

An appreciation of the peso makes imported goods cheaper.

Last week, the peso broke into the 43-to-a-dollar territory, which monetary officials credited to the increase in dollar remittances and foreign investments. This was much stronger than the average foreign exchange rate of P48:$1 assumed by economic managers for 2007.

Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. admitted that the spike in oil prices would have an impact on commodity prices next year, but added this was unlikely to affect the government's inflation target. For 2008, the BSP hopes to limit inflation between 3 and 5 percent.

"The effect may be somewhat mitigated by such factors as the stronger peso," Tetangco said. "The BSP will continue to monitor this so that any second round effect, or upward shift in inflation expectation, is properly ... addressed."

Myrna Asuncion, officer in charge of the Neda's policy and planning division, said the rise in oil prices was also not enough to keep the economy from reaching the government's growth target.

She said the rise in oil prices was not enough reason for the economy to fall short of the 5.8- to 6.5-percent growth target for this year because of the strengthening of the peso and other favorable factors.

BOC set to sell, not smash, luxury vehicles

IN AN EFFORT TO MEET ITS COLLECTION goal for the year, the Bureau of Customs asked for and received Malacañang's approval to sell the smuggled luxury vehicles the agency seized, instead of smashing them.

"I asked the President if [the BOC] could sell the vehicles, instead of destroying them, because we are in need of additional revenues," Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales told reporters. "The primordial function of Customs is to collect revenue for the government."

Morales said that, after the President agreed to his request, the BOC placed the luxury vehicles on the list of forfeited assets to be sold.

According to Morales, he is under the impression that Malacañang may never again order the destruction of seized vehicles after the BOC received the go-ahead to sell the high-priced items.

Hoping to put teeth into the government's antismuggling drive, President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier ordered the destruction of smuggled luxury vehicles. Three months ago, 18 such vehicles were destroyed and turned into metal scraps at the Naval Supply Depot in Subic Bay Freeport.

At that time, critics slammed the move, saying the government should have instead sold the vehicles to make money out of them. The luxury vehicles, worth millions of pesos, were all reduced to metal scrap worth an estimated P150,000.

Morales said there were 17 other smuggled luxury vehicles that were supposed to be destroyed but were put on the BOC's auction block. One was sold last month.

The luxury vehicles include, among others, brand new Nissan SUV, Audi, BMW and Cadillac units, whose floor prices range from P2.3 million to P6.5 million.

Morales said he was hoping to sell all the vehicles before the end of the year to boost the BOC's revenue collection.

The Customs chief said the BOC had set the floor prices of the vehicles, which include proper excise tax and duty, to almost match their regular market prices. This was in response to criticisms and suspicion that the smugglers would get to retrieve their vehicles through the BOC auctions.

"If smugglers indeed are the ones participating in the auctions, then they should pay what is necessary if they want to get the vehicles," Morales said. "The floor prices we set were based on market prices."

The BOC, the second biggest revenue earner for the government, after the Bureau of Internal Revenue, is tasked to collect P228.2 billion this year. The amount is consistent with the government's goal of limiting its budget deficit to P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion. *Michelle V. Remo*

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TKC Steel posts 160% growth in revenues

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TKC STEEL CORP. SAID ITS REVenues surged 160 percent to P3.3 billion in the first nine months from P1.25 billion in the same period last year, boosted by higher production of steel billets, the basic material used for construction.

In a statement, TKC Steel said the growth momentum was propelled by increased billet production of Treasure Steelworks Corp. (TSC), its local subsidiary, and the start of commercial operations of ZZ Stronghold Steel Works Co. Ltd. (ZZS), its China-based unit, as well as favorable price trends.

Treasure Steelworks posted record revenues of P3.1 billion for the first nine months of 2007, an increase of 148 percent from the P1.25 billion recorded in the same period in 2006. Sales volume rose 68 percent to 124,843 metric tons (MT) for the nine-month period from 74,187 MT for the same period in 2006.

Despite having started commercial operations in the second quarter of 2007, it said ZZS is gradually growing its revenues, hitting P157.8 million for the period under review. For the third quarter of 2007, revenues were up 39 percent to P91.88 million from the second quarter's P66 million.

TKC president Anthony S. Dizon said: "We are very pleased about the growth in revenues from both our operating subsidiaries. Even more important is that TKC Steel is on its way to strengthening both our local and regional business that we deliberately set out for in time for our follow-on offering. The continued exceptional financial performance is an excellent indicator toward this direction."

TKC Steel recently signed a deal with a China-based import and export company, Xiamen Xindeco Ltd., which involves the installation of a blast furnace that will double TKC Steel's production capacity to 600,000 MT from 300,000 MT a year by the fourth quarter of 2008.

ZZS is also set to double its production capacity for spiral pipes to 80,000 MT from 40,000 MT by adding an additional production line that will be fully operational by the first quarter of 2008.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 31, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	32,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	62	62.5	62	62.5	1,098,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	68	65.5	65.5	4,976,400
748	536	China Banking Corp.	715	715	710	710	1,030
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	360,000
75.5	45.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	62	62.5	61.5	62	2,727,900
65.5	34.5	Philippine National Bank	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	936,400
39.57	17.17	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27.5	29	27.5	29	1,427,500
90	60.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	78.5	76	78.5	41,400
66	45.99	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	50	50	137,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2.02	1.98	2	3,405,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	14.25	14.75	13.75	14.75	1,276,400
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	4,000
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.18	1.02	1.06	890,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.5	4,556,000
1,950.00	1,570.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,930.00	1,950.00	1,930.00	1,950.00	1,390
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	754,000
3.1	1.22	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	60,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,300.00	1,345.00	1,270.00	1,300.00	15,280
2,470.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,400.00	2,470.00	2,400.00	2,470.00	1,760
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.56	145,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	8,379,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60	59.5	60	1,644,300
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86.5	86	86	2,170,000
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.75	17	2,492,500
105.45	23.64	Manila Electric Co.	83	83	81.5	82.5	1,700,800
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	27,653,000
7	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.9	7	6.7	7	7,306,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8	8.1	8	8	26,000
2.3	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	2.06	2.06	1.92	1.96	10,904,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	26,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.8	1.8	535,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	27	27	27	27	250,100
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51	51	51	51	598,600
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	650,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	417,000
80	58	San Miguel Corp. "A"	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	40,000
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62	62	61.5	62	508,600
22	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.5	15	14.5	14.75	13,305,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	1,065,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,820,000
7	2.6	Republic Cement Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	845,000
2	0.48	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	3,988,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	126,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	3,110,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.6	A. Soriano Corp	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	152,000
0.17	0.044	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.145	551,200,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	4,790,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	249,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	21,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	2,710,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	235,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.4	17,297,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.81	0.84	0.81	0.83	240,000
1.5	0.33	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.44	2,985,000
620	397.92	Ayala Corp.	615	620	600	620	385,590
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.75	14.75	14	14.5	17,700
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.35	4.55	3,522,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	12	10.75	12	6,334,700
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.8	25,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2	2	2	2	6,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	235,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	7	7	6.9	7	1,443,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	108,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.205	0.22	0.205	0.215	75,050,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.48	1,940,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	55,000
452.5	263.74	SM Investments Corp.	380	380	375	380	565,550
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	77,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	6,390,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.82	490,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.52	858,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	15	16.75	13.25	16.75	41,700
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	3,940,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.68	420,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.46	1.5	1.4	1.5	705,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.7	76,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15	15	23,749,600
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	1,781,000
2.7	1.2	Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	30,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	750,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	14,490,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	7,360,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	8,248,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.88	1.82	1.88	19,391,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	600,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.35	4.4	46,839,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.75	4.9	4.75	4.9	184,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.49	0.49	4,280,000
23	14.25	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	2,361,500
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.3	4.45	4.3	4.45	429,000
13.5	7.2	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	12	10,755,600
3.25	1.32	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	661,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,600,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.5	10,219,000
4.5	0.38	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc.	2.75	3.25	2.75	3.15	13,326,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	34	8,700
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	119,000
		TELECOMMUINCATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	127,000
1,745.00	1,110.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,715.00	1,720.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	80,820
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,010.00	3,010.00	2,990.00	3,005.00	111,050
8.1	5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	1,246,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.5	9.6	9.4	9.4	104,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.1	9.2	9	9.2	1,176,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.042	10,000,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15.5	17.5	15.5	17.5	17,600
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	13,190,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	780,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	28,600,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	3,558,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	25,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	628,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	2	2	2	2	57,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	12,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	9.9	10.5	9.9	10.5	4,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	34,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	27,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.7	0.74	6,950,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.81	1,400,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	4,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	21,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.3	973,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp	12.5	12.5	12	12	45,000
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	11	11	11	11	980,500
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	16,600,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	792,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	93,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	16	15.5	15.75	2,590,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13	14	13	13	408,700
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10	11.25	10	11	2,249,300
3.1	0.57	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.55	2.65	2.48	2.6	51,494,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	12,460,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	2,050,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	31,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	55,300,000
30	1.98	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24	25.5	24	25	2,282,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	187,800,000
10.75	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.25	10.5	10	10.5	20,007,400
46.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	43	46.5	43	45	435,800
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.88	0.92	0.84	0.89	2,740,000
1.8	0.68	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,700,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,010,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	450,300,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	34,700,000
29	8.6	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	19	19	19	19	4,600
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	245,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	604,500,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	951.58 DOWN	3.17	22,847,960	743,239,715.00
Industrial	4,695.68 DOWN	4.68	89,610,000	1,096,986,420.00
Holding Firms	2,225.59 UP	17.57	922,646,540	779,381,390.00
Property	1,682.34 DOWN	32.07	401,397,698	1,075,246,373.60
Service	1,833.98 DOWN	5.64	70,282,770	560,238,740.00
Mining & Oil	8,539.86 UP	96.71	1,480,862,200	538,705,940.00
All Shares Index	2,349.83 DOWN	5.05		
PSEI	3,758.97 DOWN	24.46		
	GRAND TOTALS		2,987,647,168	4,793,798,578.60

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Maybank CURRENCIES

October 31, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.692569	1.000000	43.9470
Japan	Yen	0.006042	0.008724	0.3834
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432717	2.068700	90.9132
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.089364	0.129032	5.6706
Switzerland	Franc	0.597867	0.863260	37.9377
Canada	Dollar	0.727336	1.050200	46.1531
Singapore	Dollar	0.477601	0.689608	30.3062
Australia	Dollar	0.636962	0.919709	40.4185
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.837491	2.653153	116.5981
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.185174	0.267373	11.7502
Brunei	Dollar	0.475960	0.687238	30.2020
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022022	0.031797	1.3974
UAE	Dirham	0.188608	0.272331	11.9681
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.443900	63.4551
Korea	Won	0.000764	0.001103	0.0485
China	Yuan**	0.092703	0.133854	5.8825
Denmark	Kroner	0.134177	0.193738	8.5142
India	Rupee	0.017622	0.025445	1.1182
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207232	0.299222	13.1499
New Zealand	Dollar	0.531193	0.766989	33.7069
Sweden	Kroner	0.108775	0.157060	6.9023
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021375	0.030863	1.3563

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 30, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 30, 2007

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ALABANG "B"	1.15M	RIVIERA GCC "C"	Call now	ALABANG "B"	1.1M
BAGUIO CC	600K	SHERWOOD "B"	130K	BAGUIO CC	550K
CALATAGAN "A"	50K	SPLENDIDO	150K	MKTI SPORTS	Call now
CAMP JOHN HAY	300K	SUBIC BAY YACHT	Call now	MLA GOLF IND	Call now
CC@ TAG	Call now	TAG H'LANDS	Call now	MLA POLO	Call now
MLA POLO	5M	TAG MIDLANDS	Call now	MLA S'WOODS "B"	580K
MLA YACHT INDIV	230K	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now	TAG MIDLANDS	Call now
ORCHARD "A"	170K	TOWER CLUB	180K	WACK WACK	Call now

PARTIAL AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING

ALABANG CC	Call Now	ORCHARD "A"	10,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	10,000	STA. ELENA	60,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	15,000	TAG HIGHLANDS GOLF	35,000
MIMOSA	10,000	TAG MIDLANDS	30,000

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GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker No.: BD-00131
Quotation as of November 5, 2007

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,250,000	1,150,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	570,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	280,000
CANLUBANG	480,000	440,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,100,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	100,000	-
CLUB FILIPINO	120,000	90,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	150,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	230,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	100,000	80,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	250,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	240,000	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	250,000	220,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	-	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	23,000,000	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	5,000,000	4,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	290,000	260,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	650,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	190,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	220,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"	160,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	280,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	300,000	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	130,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	290,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,900,000	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	-	1,900,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	280,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	680,000	630,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	80,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	200,000
WACK-WACK GOLF CLUB	10 000 000	9 500 000

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As of November 5, 2007
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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,230,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	260,000/Pls. Call*
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	560,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	290,000
Canlubang Golf	500,000	-
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Club Filipino	120,000	80,000
Eagleridge B*/C**	250,000*/350,000**	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	100,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/200,000**	50,000/160,000*
Luisita Golf A	300,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	-	20,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	5,000,000	3,900,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	190,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	200,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/580,000**	150,000/280,000*/600,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/580,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	150,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	290,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/130,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000/2,500,000*	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	340,000	320,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	630,000
Valley Golf	250,000	210,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	80,000
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	-

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as of October 31, 2007

CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
ALABANG A	1,100,000	1,000,000
ALABANG B	1,250,000	PLS. CALL
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	PLS. CALL	550,000
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	PLS. CALL	460,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	100,000	80,000
CLUB FILIPINO	PLS. CALL	100,000
CLUB PUNTA FUEGO	350,000	PLS. CALL
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	300,000	280,000
EAGLERIDGE B	PLS. CALL	200,000
FONTANA B	70,000	PLS. CALL
FOREST HILLS B		150,000
FOREST HILLS C	PLS. CALL	PLS. CALL
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB B	PLS. CALL	220,000
MANILA GOLF CORP	PLS. CALL	22,000,000
MANILA GOLF IND	21,000,000	20,000,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	5,000,000	4,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	290,000	260,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B		640,000
METROCLUB A	150,000	PLS. CALL
ORCHARD A	170,000	PLS. CALL
ORCHARD B	300,000	PLS. CALL
ORCHARD C	350,000	PLS. CALL
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	140,000	120,000
RIVIERA GOLF B	100,000	
RIVIERA GOLF C	180,000	150,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	PLS. CALL	230,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	60,000	PLS. CALL
SPA & LODGE	550,000	PLS. CALL
SPLENDIDO	PLS. CALL	150,000
STA. ELENA A	1,900,000	PLS. CALL
SUMMIT POINT	300,000	PLS. CALL
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	PLS. CALL	620,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	PLS. CALL	640,000
THE PALMS IND.	350,000	PLS. CALL
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	200,000
VALLE VERDE	100,000	PLS. CALL
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	9,500,000

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) invites all interested computer suppliers to participate in a public bidding for the supply and delivery of computer servers and line printers.

A. **Computer Server Specifications**

Quantity - 1 set
Brand and Model: Hewlett Packard ML370 G5
Processor type : Intel® Xeon® 5060 Quad-Core Processor 1.86 GHz 1066 MHz Front Side Bus
Number of processors : 2 Processors
Standard memory : memory card; 4GB 2 x 2GB 2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs DDR2-667 SDRAM running at 533MHz, with Advanced ECC, Online Spare and Mirroring
Memory slots : 8 slots per memory card
Internal Hard disk drive 5 Pcs - HP 72 GB 3 GB/s 15K rpm SAS SFF SP Hard Disk Drive
Hard disk Hard disk controller : Smart Array P400 Controller with 256MB cache (RAID 0/1/5)
Internal drive bays : 16, requires second drive cage and controller
Operating Systems : Microsoft Windows® Server 2003 25 CAL

Quantity - 4 sets
Brand and Model: Hewlett Packard ML370 G5
Processor type : Intel® Xeon® 5060 Quad-Core Processor 1.86 GHz 1066 MHz Front Side Bus
Number of processors : 1 Processor
Standard memory : memory card; 4GB 2 x 2GB 2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs DDR2-667 SDRAM running at 533MHz, with Advanced ECC, Online Spare and Mirroring
Memory slots : 8 slots per memory card
Internal Hard disk drive 3 Pcs - HP 72 GB 3 GB/s 15K rpm SAS SFF SP Hard Disk Drive
Hard disk Hard disk controller : Smart Array P400 Controller with 256MB cache (RAID 0/1/5)
Internal drive bays : 16, requires second drive cage and controller
Operating Systems : Microsoft Windows® Server 2003 10 CAL

B. **Line Printer Specifications**

Quantity - 4 sets
Line Printer
Specs : 500 Lines per minute

Interested bidders shall include After Sales Support in their bid.

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat during office hours from November 8 to 15, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

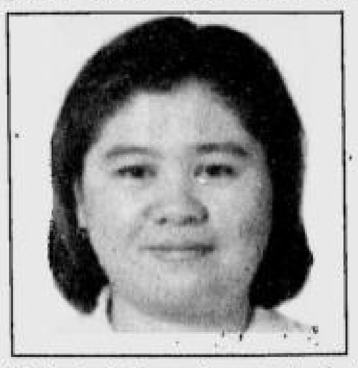
All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price.

The INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous and responsive to the INEC.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO R. AGLIAM**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 5 & 6, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that

ROSARIO MAXIMA HENSON

has been issued **WARRANTS OF ARREST** by the Municipal Trial Court of Mabalacat, Pampanga as per Criminal Case numbers 06-133 to 06-146. Any information that may lead to her arrest may be communicated to Raine at tel. no. (045) 961-8115 / 961-6774.

A **CASH REWARD** awaits the informant.

(PDI–Nov. 5 & 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for
Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II)
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Tarlac

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of application form is on 19 November 2007.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

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- Male, 20-26 years old, at least 5'7 in height
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Clusivol Power-C partners with Kapuso Foundation

AS PART OF ITS COMMITMENT OF CARING FOR THE health of Filipinos, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare has recently launched its "Power Proteksyon" project under its brand Clusivol Power C. The project aims to contribute in making the lives of the less fortunate become healthier by providing millions worth of Clusivol Power C to different foundations and non-profit organizations. According to Cyril Urbano, product manager of Clusivol Power C, the group has come up with this effort to share its success to the public. "Clusivol Power C has been doing well in the market (ranked No. 2) for a year and a half already and it's about time that we give back to others the success of the brand by helping the less capable", Urbano added. Targeting organizations that have wide coverage, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare has decided to give its first batch of donation to GMA Kapuso Foundation. He added that the group wanted to start the project by partnering with an organization that is known for its good service to people who are in need of medical assistance. GMA Kapuso Foundation received P2 million worth of 60-ml bottles of Clusivol Power C. Nonie Dela Fuente Jr., executive director of the foundation, believes that the donation is a big help to their organization. "We rely heavily on the goodness and generosity of other people. Definitely, Clusivol Power C donations have a huge impact on us not to mention that we have a number of projects catering to health services and medical treatment." Dela Fuente Jr. added that the donations of Clusivol Power C will be very much useful for the foundation's Bisig Bayan (the medical assistance program) and Kalusugan Caravan (medical and dental mission) of the foundation. He said that Clusivol Power C is crucial to a lot of beneficiaries of these programs. Meanwhile, when asked about the sustainability of the partnership, Urbano said that this is just the start of their partnership with GMA Kapuso Foundation.

INDIA'S 3RD BIGGEST BPO TAPS UCPB
Indian multinational Aditya Birla Minacs Worldwide Ltd (ABM), which is the 3rd biggest business process outsourcing (BPO) firm in India has tapped UCPB to provide cash management services for its start-up operation in the Philippines. Senior officials of the firm led by IT manager Giridhar Bandodekar, finance manager Maneesh Garg and site director Munish Mahajan (first, second and fourth from left) toured UCPB business manager Glenda Gallo (third from left) around ABM's newly opened facility in Eastwood, Quezon City. The facility will employ 2,500 contact agents.

OBITUARIES

REMEDIOS "REMMEE" GILE TAN-ABELLA

*November 19, 1948 * November 05, 1997*

Ten years has passed since you joined our Maker
You left a void in our lives, but we've managed to move on
For we know that we have one more angel
Who continues to guide and look after us

And so, we lovingly remember you today,
'My, Mommy, Nene, Ate, Tita Remmee & Ma'am...
For your strength and firmness;
Your thoughtfulness and sweetness,
With celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
*at **6:00 PM today***
In the following churches :

Quezon City
Our Lady of Consolacion Parish
Mt. Carmel Church (New Manila)
Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Manila
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene
Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Our Lady of Remedios Church

Sydney, Australia
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Mary Immaculate Parish Church

With much love, your loving husband **HENRY**; Children & their spouses: **SEZE, JIG, DHIN & OBIE, JHON & ARLEN**; Grandchildren: **REIGN, BYN, GABO, HANS & JULIANA**; Parents: **RICARDO SR.** (†) & **VISITACION** (†); Brothers & sisters-in-law: **RUDY & JOJO, REY & MARIVIC, JUN** (†) **& JAJA**; Sisters & brothers-in-law: **ROSSEE, SALIE & RICHARD, BECKS & DANNY, RESSEE & GABBY**; nieces, nephews and the **EQUALIVET** Family.

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."
2 Tim. 4:7, 12:9

Maj. Gen. Alfonso P. Cagurangan, Jr. AFP (Ret.)

PMA Class '66

peacefully joined the Lord on Nov. 1, 2007
at the age of 63.

His wife, **Desiree** and children **Emmanuel** and **Racquel**, **Nathaniel** and **Glenda**, **Marita** and **GJ**, **Danny** and **Maggie**, and **Kathleen**; grandchildren and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary and Crematory of the Heritage Park.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig after the 9:00 a.m. mass at the Chapel 8, Heritage Park, Taguig City.

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park Fort Bonifacio

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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On the 11th Anniversary of

DIONISIO L. FALGUI, JR.

Former Provincial Prosecutor – Kalinga Province

who died on November 5, 1996.

Mass will be offered today at 6:30 a.m.
at St. Joseph Parish Church, Tabuk City, Kalinga.

His bereaved widow **Amor Palacio-Falgui**; children **William Dio** and **Brenda Omengan, Dionisio III (Dondi)** and **Loretto Gonzales, Richard Dio, Maria Diana** and **Thom John (Roche) Dalsen**; grandchildren **Denise, Diowi, Morel, Lexi, Dio IV, Diolo, Andio, Erin, Kahli, Jana** and **Tingol**; sisters **Esperita, Reinelda, Florentina** and **Gloria**; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

Our Dearly Beloved

CAPT. EBENEZER P. MALACAMAN

(April 9, 1945 - November 1, 2007)

Peacefully joined our Creator
on November 1, 2007 at the age of 62.

His loving wife **Celia G. Malacaman**; son **Perri**; daughter-in-law **Kathy**; daughter **Chichi**; grandchild **KC** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Funeral Mass at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 7, 2007 and interment follows at 3:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"I waited patiently
for the Lord; He turned
to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out
of the slimy pit, out of
the mud and mire;
He set my feet on the
rock and gave me
a firm place to stand."
Psalm 40:1-2

Death Notice

DEMETRIO G. CARLOS, JR.
July 30, 1927 – October 31, 2007

Interment tomorrow, November 6, 2007
at the Marian Garden Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. funeral mass
at the Duhat Chapel.

Greenfield earmarks ₱1B for expansion

Company putting up 'lifestyle center,' BPO offices

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY FIRM GREENFIELD DEVELOPment Corp. of the Campos family is setting aside P1 billion for the expansion of its 300-hectare mixed-use community dubbed "Greenfield City" in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The new phases of the township project will include a high-end residential subdivision, office buildings and a commercial center.

In a statement, GDC chair Jeffrey Campos said the company was expanding the commercial area within Greenfield City by another 33 hectares to make room for a "lifestyle center" which will house more retail outlets. This will be in addition to its open-air mall called Paseo de Sta. Rosa, which covers 12 hectares.

The lifestyle center will be called "Laguna Central" and is estimated to cost about P200 million. It will feature upscale restaurants, specialty shops, cafes and bars.

Paseo de Sta. Rosa presently has a wide array of restaurants, brand name outlet stores and service shops.

Also part of the expansion plan, according to Campos, is the establishment of a transport hub, estimated to cost P100 million, to further drive growth in the area.

For the residential development component, the company plans to undertake the next two phases of the recently launched Pranama residential park.

GDC executive vice president Duane Santos said the company spent P400 million for the first phase of Pramana, which is now fully developed and is ready for occupancy. The first phase covers 25 hectares and the next phases will expand the area to 80 hectares.

GDC will also build two office buildings that will offer 6,000 square meters of leasable space to the booming business process outsourcing industry. Estimated to cost P240 million, the office buildings form part of the planned development of the 10-hectare Sta. Rosa Business Park within Greenfield City, which is envisioned to become a primary office and commercial zone in the area.

Greenfield City is also home to the "Greenfield Auto Park," a 65-hectare special economic zone where 25 hectares of land serve as a manufacturing facility for Ford Motor Phils. Inc., the world's second largest car firm.

Two other companies such as Visteon Philippines Corp. and Automotive Interiors Corp.—which are involved in the production of Ford's automotive electrical circuits and lining interiors—are also located within the auto park.

"The TechnoPark Hotel is also strategically located here, providing for the needs of business executives in the area," a company official said.

Located within the ecozone is the Greenfield Automall, a five-hectare integrated automotive retail and commercial establishment catering to car dealership, car accessories and auto parts.

The Sta. Rosa Business Park in Greenfield City also houses the P100-million Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center, which was inaugurated last month by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

SLHMC is a topnotch medical institution and facility that will provide modern and state-of-the-art but affordable medical services to residents in the south. The hospital is managed by the Calamba Medical Center.

Deficient nonlife insurers given up to Dec. to raise networth

By Doris C. Dumlao

SIX OUT OF ABOUT 90 NONlife insurance companies operating in the Philippines have failed to comply with the P100-million minimum net worth required by the government as of end-2006, official documents showed.

Deputy Insurance Commissioner Vida Chiong said these companies had committed to fill their deficiencies this year.

The deficient nonlife insurers include Paramount Life and Gen., CAP Gen. Insurance Corp., CA Life Insurance Corp. and CICI General Insurance Corp., the documents showed. The other two—Covenant Assurance Co. Inc. and Far Eastern Surety Ins. Co.—had been slapped with cease-and-desist orders due to net worth deficiencies during the terms of former Insurance Commissioners Ben Santos and Evangeline Escobillo.

Chiong, however, said these firms made an undertaking to comply with the net worth requirement by the end of the year.

She said some of the companies were awaiting the sale of some of their assets to cover their networth deficiency.

Industry members, she said, had complained about the stiff requirements and the IC had given these companies "a little consideration."

Chiong said authorities were "convinced that there's really money coming in (these companies)."

She said, however, that if they would fail to meet the requirement this year, these companies would be automatically stripped of their operating licenses.

Earlier, credit watchdog Standard & Poor's stressed the government's lax implementation of capital adequacy rules in the Philippines.

The adequacy of an insurer's capital is determined through their margin of solvency, ability to pay the claim and their paid-up capital.

The government earlier started a stiffer capital-buildup program and introduced risk-based capital adequacy.

The Department of Finance has ordered the strict implementation of the P100-million minimum net worth requirement and the risk-based capital approach to strengthen and consolidate the nonlife insurance industry.

In the meantime, the nonlife insurance industry is improving its product offerings to jack up its market penetration rate, which at present is only 15 percent.

The industry's profitability rate, as measured by return on investments, had dropped to 4 percent this year from as high as 12 percent in previous years.

RP ranks 71st in WEF competitiveness index

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINES' ECONOMIC competitiveness improved slightly this year, although it remained one of the least competitive in the Southeast Asian region, according to the latest report of the World Economic Forum.

In the WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2007-2008, the Philippines was at No. 71, a four-notch improvement over the rank of 75 last year.

The United States maintained its ranking as the world's most competitive economy due to "a winning combination of highly sophisticated and innovative companies operating in very efficient factor markets."

Singapore led the Southeast Asian region in the list, improving its rank to seventh from eighth place last year.

Among the eight Asean countries covered, the Philippines came ahead only of Cambodia and Timor-Leste.

Other Asean countries that were included in the report were Malaysia (ranked 21st from 19th), Thailand (28th), Indonesia (54th) and Vietnam (68th from 64th).

Asean members Brunei, Laos and Myanmar were not included.

"The Asia region encompasses the entire gamut in our ranking, from highly competitive countries to the most challenged, drawing an extremely heterogeneous picture with respect to the levels of growth and development achieved in the region," WEF's head of strategic insight teams Fiona Paua said in a statement.

"Nine Asia-Pacific countries are among the top 30 in the Global Competitiveness Index rankings, led by Singapore, Japan (8th), Korea (11th) and Hong Kong SAR (12th), while Mongolia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and Timor-Leste are all positioned at the very bottom of the rankings," she added.

The rankings are determined based on publicly available data and the Executive Opinion Survey, a yearly survey conducted by the WEF with its network of partner institutes. In the Philippines, this survey is conducted by the Makati Business Club.

Globe's cable project seen ready by Sept. '08

By Riza T. Olchondra

GLOBE TELECOM INC.'S $90-million project to link the Philippines directly to the United States will be completed by September next year as scheduled.

The project fulfills Globe's promise during the Cebu ICT 2007 in June that it would invest in more back-end facilities to meet growing demand for global Internet bandwidth.

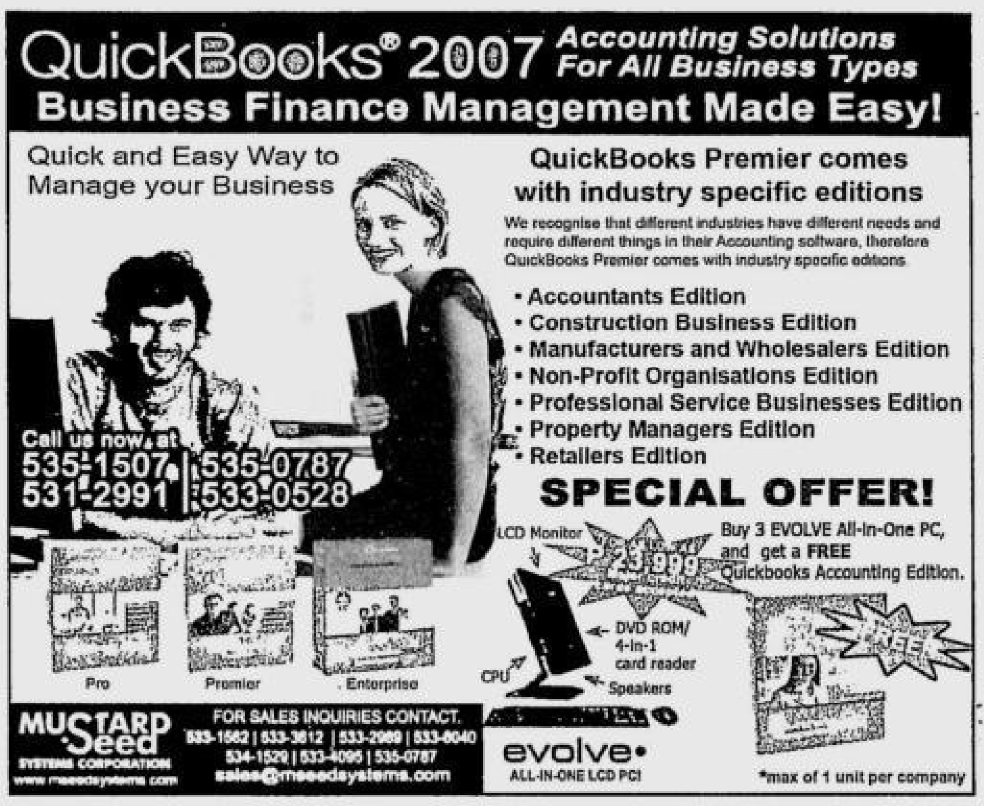
The country's second-largest telco will accomplish this as the exclusive Philippine landing party for the $200-million trans-Pacific cable project of Tata Group of India. This link is scheduled to be built in June next year, according to Tata Group's Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. or VSNL.

"The Philippine link will be completed around the same time, but it is scheduled to be operational two to three months later because it has to be electronically configured for the transmission network here," said Gil B. Genio, head of Globe Telecom's Carrier Services and CEO of Innove Communications.

"Globe's investment participation in VSNL's TGN-Intra Asia Cable System allows us to significantly increase our Asian capacity to meet the growing demand, and provide resilient and geographically diverse supply. It will significantly improve the competitiveness of the Philippines as a prime destination for outsourcing companies."

The system will also link the country to Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as provide a direct connection to Guam and the West Coast.

Globe's rival telco, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. group, is investing $100 million in a separate system.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Important message to smokers from JT International

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Cigarette companies have traditionally used various means to allow consumers to distinguish between products. These may be words, like "light", "smooth", "mild" or pack colors, or other elements of product and pack design.

None of these elements of pack or product design, including the brand names, taste and flavor of our cigarettes, are intended to suggest that any cigarette is less harmful than any other.

In particular, tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide numbers printed on cigarette packs do not give individual smokers a precise figure of how much of these substances they inhale.

These numbers indicate the amount of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide contained in the smoke of each cigarette in the pack when measured under standard conditions by a special smoking machine. They provide an internationally recognized method of comparison between different brands, used in many countries around the world by manufacturers and public authorities alike.

However, a smoking machine cannot replicate the way each individual smokes. Smokers puff on cigarettes in different ways and may inhale different amounts of tar and nicotine from what is indicated on the pack.

For instance, it is possible that when switching to cigarettes with lower tar and nicotine numbers, some smokers may vary the way they smoke and obtain to some extent the experience of smoking a higher tar and nicotine number product. They may do so, for example, by taking more puffs or larger puffs.

No cigarette is safe. So you should not switch to another type, flavor or strength of cigarettes on the assumption that it will lower your health risks from smoking. Switching is not a substitute for quitting. If you want to reduce or eliminate the health risks of smoking, quitting is the best choice for you. Many smokers have quit without help, but if you have difficulty quitting, you should consult a health professional.

JTI

BUSINESS

Inflation risks may prompt BSP to cut key rates

Rise in cost of basic goods still 'manageable'

By Doris C. Dumlao

WITH INFLATIONARY RISKS reported to be "manageable," the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas may go the way of the US Federal Reserve and reduce its benchmark interest rates during its next monetary setting on Nov. 15.

"The primary consideration of the BSP in assessing monetary policy stance is the inflation outlook," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said. "Thus, the Fed's decision will be considered in terms of its implications, particularly on capital flows and domestic liquidity, and their potential impact on future inflation."

The statement was made after US monetary officials last week lowered the federal funds rate, or the rate at which banks lend to each other, to 4.5 percent in an effort to ease the credit crunch brought on by a housing slump in the world's largest economy.

At present, the risks to inflation outlook appear to be manageable, based on the third quarter inflation report, the BSP said.

Also, Tetangco's reaction this time was more subdued compared to when the Fed cut its rate by a steeper-than-expected 50 basis points in September. At that time, Tetangco was quick to say that the Fed's move gave the local central bank "room to maneuver."

The BSP then slashed its overnight borrowing rate to a 15-year low of 5.75 percent on Oct. 4.

Lower interest rates in the US usually make high-yielding assets from emerging markets like the Philippines more attractive to investors. Strong foreign inflows, in turn, threaten price stability as more money will chase consumer goods.

"Developments in the external sector, particularly major economies such as the US, are given due consideration," Tetangco said, "but the key focus remains on the inflation objective, which is the principal mandate of the BSP."

For the first nine months of the year, the country's inflation averaged at only 2.6 percent. The BSP forecasts that inflation—which measures the average rise in prices of goods consumed by a typical Filipino household—will remain at the 2.6 to 3.1 percent range for the full year.

Trade with Taiwan dipped in first 8 mos

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MERCHANDISE TRADE BETWEEN THE Philippines and Taiwan declined by 5.94 percent to $4.63 billion in the eight months due to the strengthening of the peso and the slow demand for local goods in the first half.

Data from Taiwan's Government Information Office or GIO showed that Taiwan imported Philippine goods worth $1.49 billion from January to August.

This represented a 23.6-percent decline from $1.95 billion recorded in the same period last year.

On the other hand, Taiwanese shipped to the Philippines goods worth $3.14 billion, up 6.47 percent from $2.95 billion in the same period last year.

As of end-August, Taiwan maintained the upper hand with a trade surplus of about $1.65 billion, increasing by 65.32 percent from $999.6 million.

Further, the Taiwan GIO reported that the Philippines remained Taiwan's 15th largest trading partner in that period, accounting for 1.55 percent of the island-economy's total global trade, which was valued at $298.7 billion.

Among developing countries excluding mainland China, the Philippines was Taiwan's sixth largest trade partner after Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Earlier this year, the Philippines had slid a notch lower as Vietnam overtook it to the fifth spot among developing countries except China.

China is Taiwan's largest trading partner with am 18.7-percent share or $55.8 billion of the latter's aggregate trade in terms of value.

Also, the Philippines was the 11th largest destination of Taiwanese exports with 2 percent of total outbound cargoes valued at some $156.5 billion.

The country ranked 18th among the largest sources of Taiwan's imports—rising by two notches from 20th in the first quarter—accounting for about 1.05 percent of total inbound shipments worth some $142.2 billion.

Banana sector poised for growth, says DA

By Amy R. Remo

THE LOCAL BANANA INDUSTRY IS POISED to take advantage of the projected growth in world banana exports, estimated to reach 15 million metric tons by 2010, according to the Department of Agriculture's Strategic Plan for bananas.

Banana exports already reached 12.94 million MT in 2004.

The DA said it believes that prospects for banana, which has been a consistent top dollar earner, remains promising, both for the domestic and foreign markets.

Huge investment opportunities can still be seen in the exports of Cavendish and fresh and processed bananas, as well as in the production of banana chips and puree, it added.

The DA said it had mapped out strategies to ensure that the local banana industry can capture a bigger share of the export market.

In general, the DA targets to increase production and exports of banana chip and Cavendish bananas and develop more export markets.

Through its trade and selling missions and strong product promotions, the DA hopes to penetrate new markets in Europe.

At the same time, it expects to increase exports to existing markets such as Australia, United States, Taiwan, China, South Korea and Middle East.

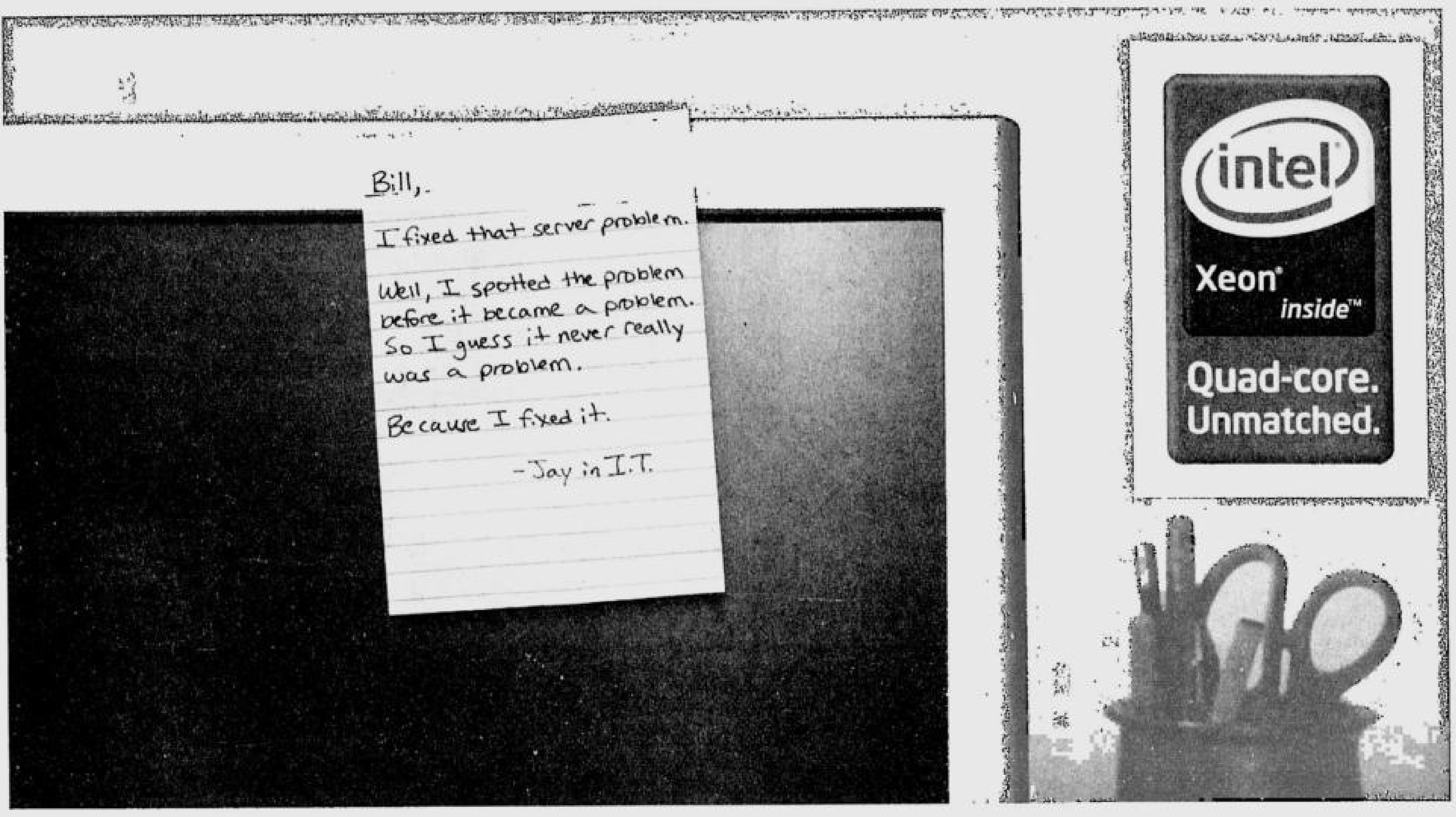
Trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand for the export of Philippine bananas will also be pursued.

Based on the DA report, the Philippines still ranks a far second from Ecuador in terms of world net exports.

Other leading banana producers include India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Costa Rica and Mexico.

Last year, the country's banana exports reached 1.905 million MT worth $440 million, while Ecuador exported some 4.65 million MT.

Ecuador accounts for 34 percent of the world export market while the Philippines' shares is only 16 percent, the DA said in its report.



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BUSINESS*Monday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Call center agents seek recognition

CLINT STREIT

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARIFE ZAMORA, COUNTRY MANAGER of Convergys Corp. in the Philippines, gets annoyed when people say that call center agents are glorified telephone operators.

Zamora is quick to say to anybody who will listen that they are much more than that.

"Yes, agents do take calls, and they are expected to facilitate the smooth exchange of information, but their level of job complexity goes far beyond operating a switchboard or handling a call," Zamora said in a speech before the Rotary Club of Manila.

"The ability to read from a script is not good enough. Agents need to have excellent communication skills. They must possess the diction, grammar, cultural knowledge, attitude and understanding of the subtle nuances of communication to guide the customer throughout the call," she explained.

It is worth noting that most of the call center agents in the country take calls from customers from the United States who bought products and services peddled by top corporations.

As such, they demand a high level of customer service from the person on the other line, most likely somebody from the Philippines.

"Oftentimes, call center agents find themselves dealing with difficult customers with whom they must assertively negotiate in order to reach a solution that is satisfactory to both their client and their customer. No script can anticipate such situations. Confidence and presence of mind, stemming from mastery of the language, are absolutely vital," Zamora said.

"Agents are experts in their assigned fields. To become experts, they need to absorb and retain up to six weeks' worth of training on products and concepts that may have been alien to them at the start. Then, under the close watch and high expectations of clients and customers, they are expected to apply their newly acquired knowledge flawlessly from the first call. Customer dissatisfaction is not an option," she added.

It is getting more difficult and expensive to find agents who will do the job well in the United States, which is why many customer service companies in the United States, like Convergys, have turned to the Philippines for help.

Filipinos are in the position to provide the quality customer service at a much lower price because of their facility with the

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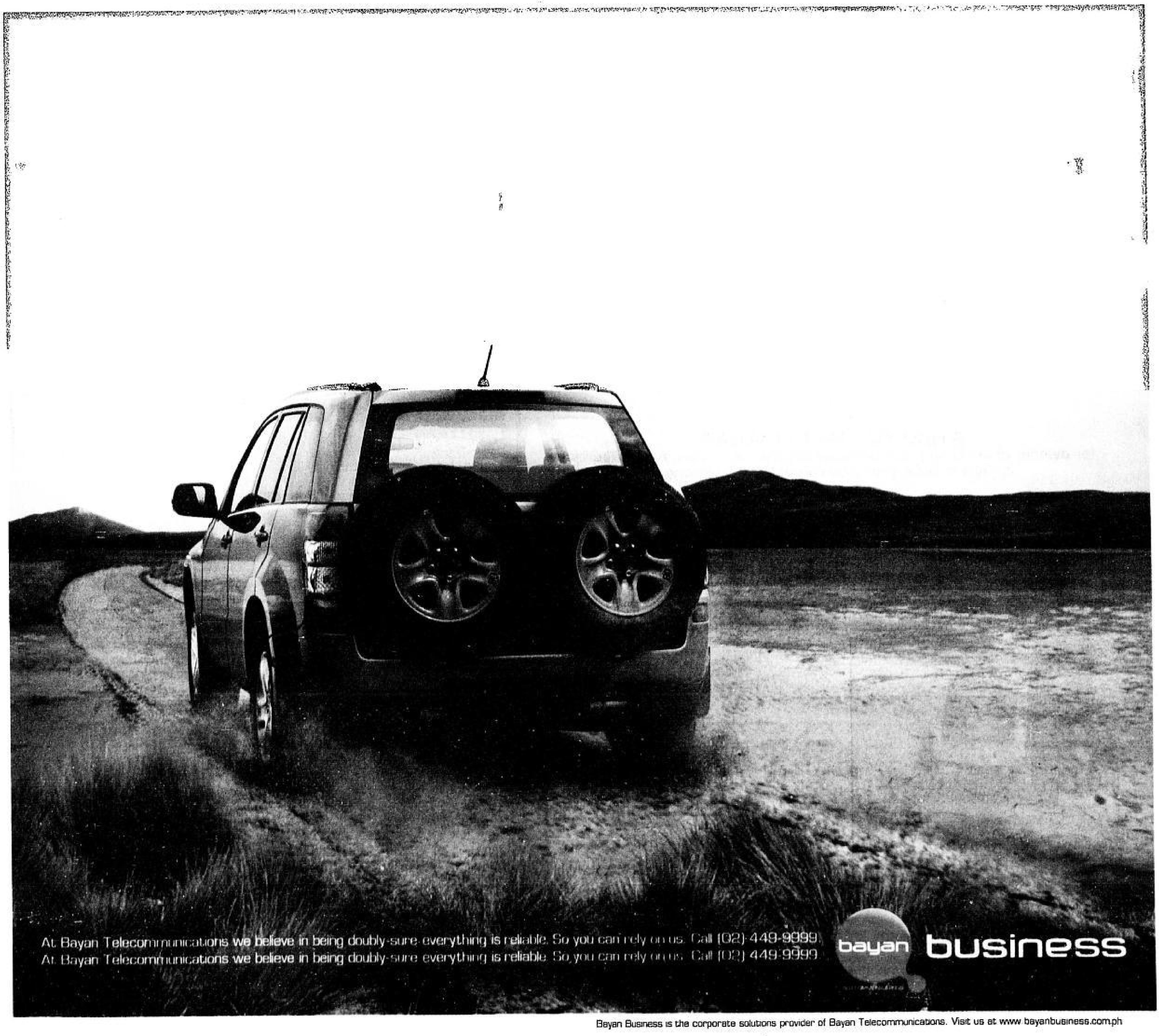
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Barking up the wrong tree

MAPping THE FUTURE

Niceto S. Poblador

ROMULO NERI'S RECENT "TEMporary" appointment as chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) is symptomatic of the terrible mess in our country's system of higher education.

CHEd has in recent years been led by a procession of transitory chairs, many with dubious credentials, and few with a clear and credible vision and sense of direction for the country's system of higher education.

By all indications, Neri, for all his sterling qualifications as an economist, seems to fit that same mold.

CHEd's role

His initial statements soon after word of his appointment leaked out were not very reassuring. In a phone interview with this newspaper, he described his role as one of "(making) sure that college graduates are matched with the requirements of (the) industry."

He added that there was a need to "coordinate with our businesses, find out what they really want … to make sure that we get the curriculum relevant to the needs of the businesses."

Meeting needs

This policy objective is very much in keeping with CHEd's vaguely defined strategy of "meeting the manpower needs of the country."

The idea of a "strategic fit" between academic programs (supply) and industry needs (demand) has a long history.

While this concept may have been valid during the more stable periods extending up until the late '70s, it is no longer so under present conditions of rapid and unpredictable change in markets and production technologies.

CHEd must now realize that it is not solely responsible for producing the skills and competencies that industry requires.

Rather, its role is to transmit general knowledge and knowledge that is relevant to a particular area of application or specialization.

The development of industry, firm and task-specific skills is mainly the responsibility of employers and, to a lesser extent, of the workers themselves.

Under present conditions of rapid and unpredictable change, it is no longer possible to determine manpower needs well in advance and in time for educational and training institutions to supply the required skills.

This dual problem of unpredictable demand for, and inflexible supply of, "required" human skills have to be addressed squarely by our educational planners.

Otherwise, the "mismatch" will persist and widen even more through time.

In today's complex and highly interconnected world of global-scale production, human and organizational skills and knowledge have very short shelf lives.

These need to be continuously changed or upgraded.

Right now, there is felt need for English-speaking employees from the BPO sector, as well as for nurses and software developers from prospective employers all over the globe.

However, no sooner have the fresh graduates with the required skills been produced, and the educational system has fully adapted to these requirements, than the needs change unexpectedly.

'Disequilibrium'

As a result, the system is perennially out of kilter (or what economists call "disequilibrium").

The system that has long been in place is unable to cope with such sudden and unexpected shifts.

The young employees are ill-equipped to readily adapt to changing circumstances by upgrading their skills or acquiring new ones. Neither can the educational institutions adapt by investing in the needed resources to produce current skills requirements.

What we do have is a potentially huge inventory of workers with unneeded skills and an educational system that is equally locked into dated curricula and academic programs.

High "switching costs" make it extremely difficult to effectively adapt to new and continuously evolving circumstances.

Under these extremely dynamic conditions, a "match" between supply and demand is pure fantasy.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. He is the author of the book "STRATEGY deMYTHicized: Why Today's Business Models Fail to Deliver." Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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PSVARE ANNUAL CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 8 (Thursday)
Theme: Towards the Efficient Utilization of Energy for a Greener Future
11:30 am – 1:30 pm PSVARE General Membership Meeting
Makati Skyline Restaurant Mezzanine Flr
World Trade Center Metro Manila
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm Forum on Climate Change
Resource Speakers:
Dr. Flaviana D. Hilario, Ph.D.
Weather Services Chief
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical & Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA)
Mr. Julian D. Amador
Dir. Environmental Mgmt. Bureau
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
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Dir. Energy Utilization Mgmt. Bureau
Department of Energy (DOE)
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Mr. Philip C.H. Yu
Dir. Environmental & Applications Engineering, Trane USA
Moderator: Engr. Victorino V. Lahoz
Past President, PSVARE
By invitation only

TECHNICAL SEMINARS
NOVEMBER 9 (Friday)
SEMINAR ROOM A
9:30 am – 10:30 am Introduction to ASHRAE 90.1 Standard
10:45 am – 12:30 pm Impact on Pre-Filtration & Filter Selection for Energy Savings & Reduced Maintenance Expenditures by Air Filters Philippines, Inc
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Energy Performance of [illegible]
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm Water Treatment System for Green Buildings / Cooling Tower Approach by Chem-perts Corp
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm Practice in Maintenance & Servicing of HVAC
SEMINAR ROOM B
9:30 am – 10:30 am No ODS & Low Global Warming Alternative for Air-conditioning & Refrigeration
10:45 am – 12:30 pm ODS & GW For Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Commercial Refrigeration I. Fundamentals, Analysis and Solutions by Sanyo Phils. Inc
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm Use of Heat Pipe Technology for a Better Environment by Mytown Commercial
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm HVAC Life Cycle Cost Analysis [illegible]

NOVEMBER 10 (Saturday)
SEMINAR ROOM A
9:30 am – 10:30 am Indoor Air-Quality and Dehumidification by Sigon Industrial Corp
10:45 am – 12:30 pm Multi-Split Systems and Variable Refrigerant Flow (Why So Popular These Days?) by International Elevator & Equipment, Inc
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Product Launching of MHI Single Split R410A Air-con by Mil-Air, Inc
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm Temporary Air-con (Installation & Dismantling) by Messo & Handol Corp. Aircon Rental
SEMINAR ROOM B
9:30 am – 10:30 am Hydro Carbons as Drop-In Replacement
10:45 am – 12:30 pm [illegible]

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Global chemical firm cites projects …

From page B2-4

"ears" and smaller cores.

"This is very important in helping improve the incomes of farmers," he added.

Crop protection

DuPont's second facility—its crop protection unit—is close to Abadilla's heart because he started out in the company as part of this division.

"This is where DuPont started in the Philippines," he said, explaining that the pesticides unit started out in Cabuyao, Laguna 35 years ago but decided to relocate to the Carmelray Industrial Park once its old site became surrounded by residential developments.

Track record

"We were very concerned about the residents around the facility," he said, echoing a corporate philosophy of environmental preservation that makes DuPont stand out from among companies involved in industrial chemicals.

The local pesticide industry is worth at least P5 billion and DuPont ranks relatively low in the field, but Abadilla takes pride in the track record of the facility.

"We have been operating this facility for over 30 years without a single 'lost work' case," he said.

This means that not a single accident resulting in death or injury has occurred at the site—an enviable record for any company.

Training facility

Finally, the company also operates a training facility, which teaches its clients on the proper use of its paint products, used mainly in the automobile industry.

"Our training center teaches the most advanced methods for painting in the auto industry," Abadilla said.

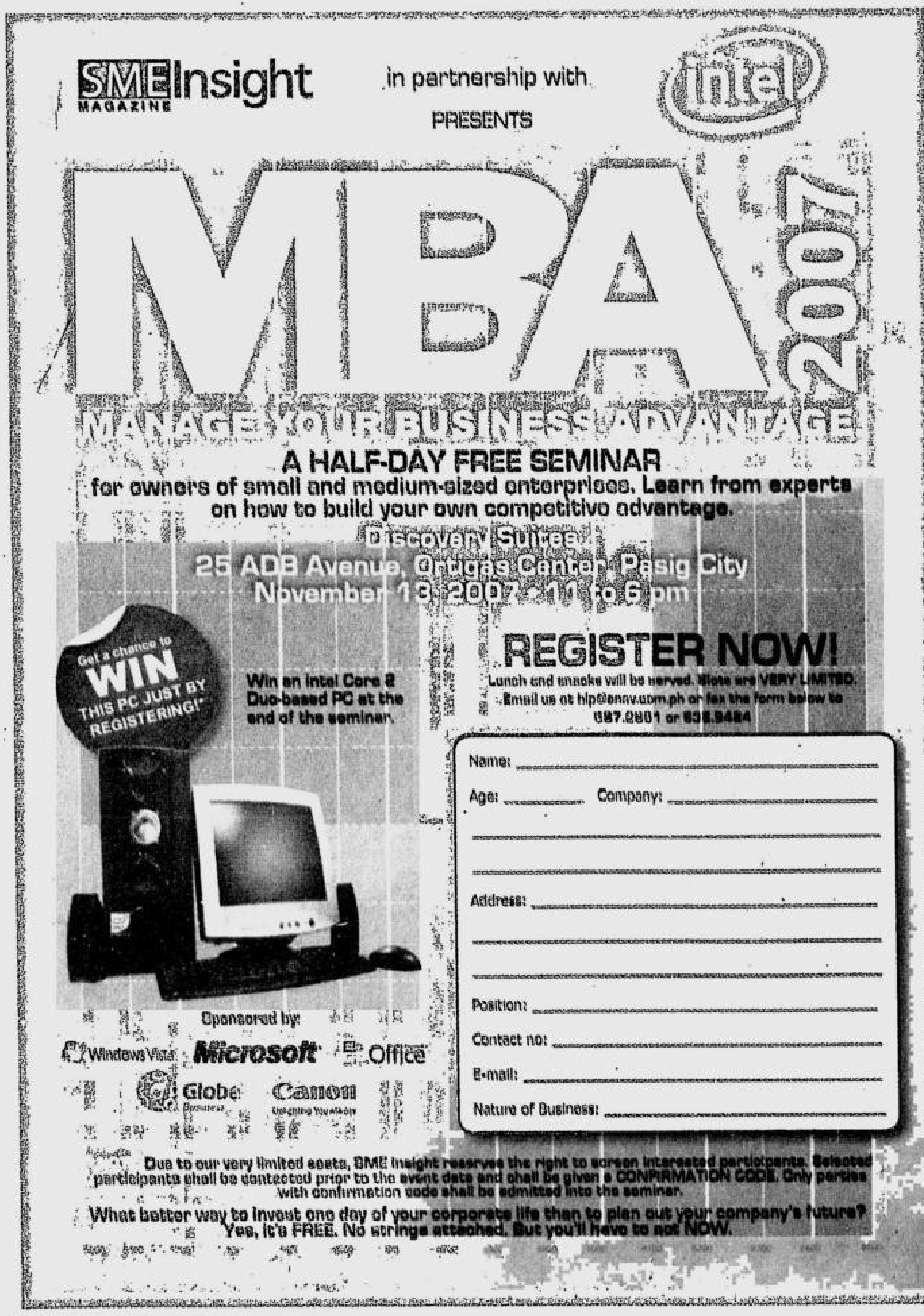
Throughout all this, the DuPont country chief pointed out that concern for the environment has remained the company's overriding concern.

He explains that many of DuPont's products are "dangerous" when disposed of improperly so the company has a "cradle to grave" policy where they train all users about proper handling all the way to proper disposal, especially of industrial and agricultural chemicals.

The company's devotion to environmental concerns is, to say the least, unusual.

"This goes back to our corporate philosophy," Abadilla said. "We want to take sustainability to the next level."

For a company founded on the chemical industry, it is in a real sense walking the talk.



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Call center agents …

From page B2-1

MARIFE Zamora

English language and affinity with the American culture.

This explains the exponential growth of the call center industry in the Philippines, which is unfortunately not fully appreciated, according to Zamora.

"Aside from the misconception that agents are glorified telephone operators, there also seems to be lack of appreciation of the opportunities that the call center industry offers not only to its employees but also the country at large," she said.

Convergys figures showed that the call center industry in the Philippines brought in $3.5 billion in revenues and has provided jobs to many young Filipinos ranging from 21 to 26 years old.

And the industry can grow faster, if only there are enough agents to meet the demand.

For while Filipinos are familiar with the language and the culture, not all can pass the high standards required by the call center companies.

"The potential for employment and growth in this industry is limited not by demand but the talent pool that has been found lacking in proficiency in the English language. The current pass rate is five out of every 100 applicants. Imagine if the pass rate were 10, 20 or even 50 percent? It is easy to imagine the economic benefits our country can realize from increased revenue in this one industry," she said.

Data show that if the call center industry sustains its growth of 21 percent, the industry will double by 2010 from 2006 with 340,000 new jobs created. At an accelerated growth of 33 percent a year, the industry can generate up to 500,000 jobs.

Convergys itself has 11,000 employees located across eight centers nationwide with a new one to be set up in Bacolod City next year.

"There is more than enough business for Philippine call centers to double or even triple their revenue. If we were to accomplish this, we would see more stores, food outlets, merchandise sales and numerous economic benefits brought about by a highly paid, gainfully employed, assertive youth," she said.

Clint Streit, Convergys president for customer care, told the INQUIRER during his recent visit to the country that the Philippine operations, which grew from zero in 2003 to 11,000 today, have been very profitable and "have exceeded everybody's expectations."

As such, Streit was optimistic that the Convergys business in the country will grow even further, as long as it is able to develop middle and senior management.

"We can get middle and senior management from outside the company. But we have a very strong preference to develop our talent internally, and give our call center agents opportunities for growth," Streit said.

He said demand for call center services would continue to grow because only 20 percent of operations in the United States that can be outsourced are actually being handled by third-party companies.

This means a huge potential market still waiting to be tapped, and the Philippines is in a position to take advantage. The key is the availability of a talent pool proficient in the English language.

"We are starting to hit a wall when it comes to available talent over here," Streit said, and this has spurred Convergys to partner with the Department of Education in the development of a teacher training program delivered by Convergys trainers.

Under the program, Convergys trainers volunteer their time to share best practices in teaching English with public school teachers to help them help their students become experts in the English language.

Over 700 teacher-mentors have participated in the program and the training is starting to have a ripple effect among the teachers' peers and students.

Streit was confident that as students learn the value of learning English well and consider a career in the call center industry, the customer care industry in the Philippines will continue to grow at its current fast pace.

Benguet town drops Switzerland brand

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KIBUNGAN, BENGUET—LOCAL OFFICIALS no longer want this municipality to be known as the "Switzerland of Benguet" after conceding that the tag does not really describe the town.

The town council recently passed a resolution prohibiting all government agencies, private organizations and individuals from using the tag to promote Kibungan as an ecotourism destination.

Mayor Benito Siadto said the officials decided to drop the tag following the objections raised by the Department of Tourism on grounds that the line did not give an accurate picture of what Kibungan really looks like.

> Town officials say Kibungan is not really 'Switzerland of Benguet'

Controversy

The DOT raised its objection after the Department of Trade Industry distributed an investment brochure describing the town as the "Switzerland of Benguet" and "a cool place of rocky mountains and pine trees resembling that of Switzerland."

Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, earlier said the tag was misleading since Kibungan's features were far from being similar to Switzerland's.

She said the thrust to promote Benguet's ecotourism and investment potentials must come from the proper branding of the 13 towns.

Wrong impression

In the case of Kibungan, Molintas said the Swiss tag creates the wrong impression that the town has mountains full of snow where skiing enthusiasts could come and play.

Siadto said, however, that town officials have considered changing the town's tag even before the controversy over the DTI's investment brochure surfaced.

"We never objected to the removal of our tag," he said.

Siadto said people must understand why the town was tagged as the "Switzerland of Benguet."

Cool weather

"It is the town's cool weather and temperature that prompted thoughts of calling the town as the 'Switzerland of Benguet,'" Siadto said.

"The town is dominantly mountainous. It enjoys a cool highland climate," he said. "The association then with Switzerland was done in good faith."

Kibungan, which is 62 km north of Baguio City, is known for its carrots, potatoes and cabbages.

It has a population of 15,036 and a land area of 19,210 hectares.

The temperature here drops from December to January.

Madaymen, one of its eight villages, often experiences frost, locally called *"andap,"* that destroys vegetable farms.

To do away with the tag problem, Siadto said that a contest will be held to come up with a new and more appropriate one.

He said the entries, which should be accompanied by a one-paragraph explanation, should be submitted from Nov. 1 to 15 to the town's planning and development office.

The winner will be announced on Nov. 22, during the culmination of the town's weeklong foundation day festivities and a day after its *tapuey* (traditional wine) festival.

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Global chemical firm cites projects focusing on the local environment

By Daxim L. Lucas

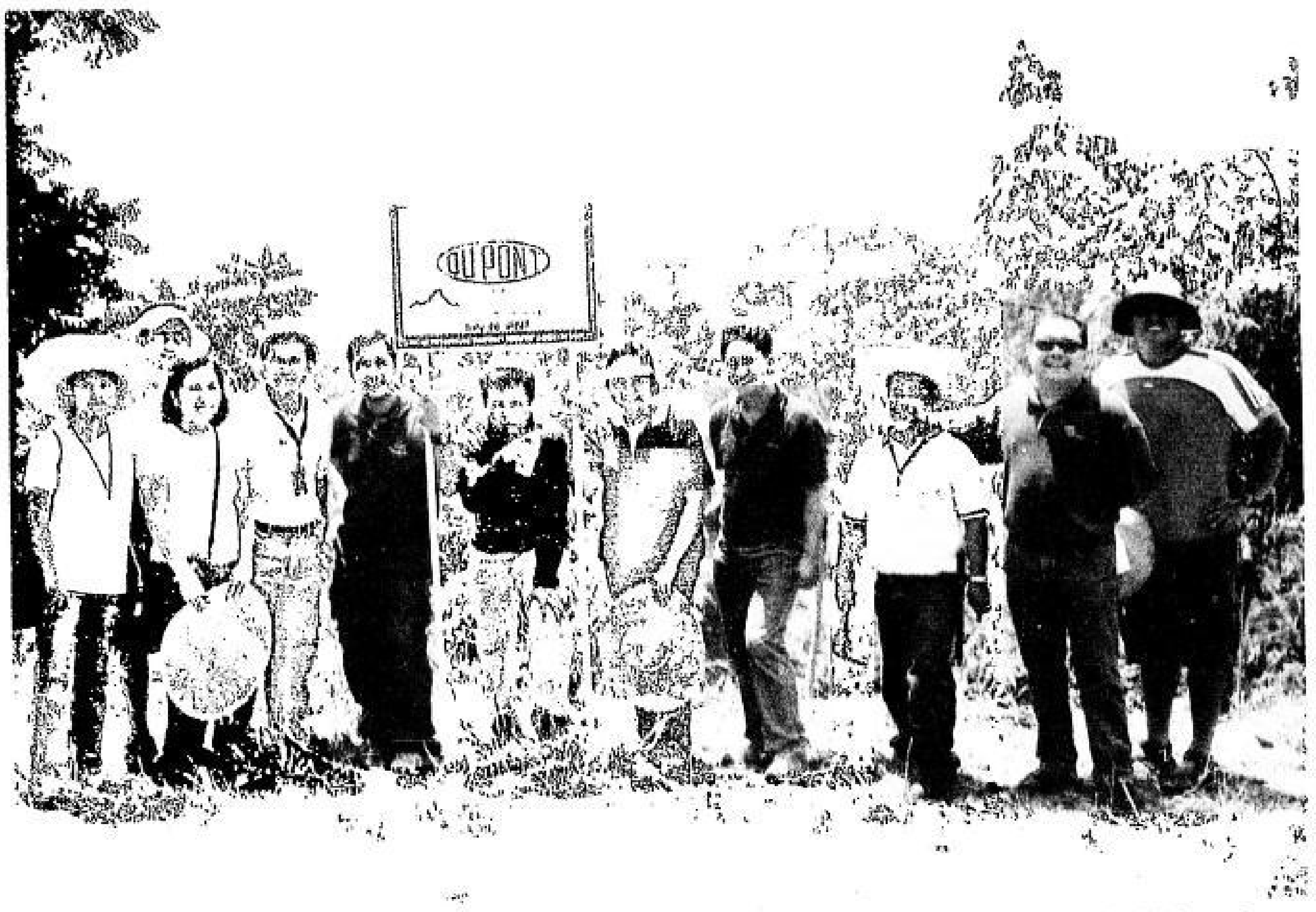
THE NAME DUPONT REMAINS UNFAmiliar to many Filipinos, but a cellular phone contains up to 14 of the company's products that help make the handheld device smaller, lighter and more reliable.

With almost every Filipino sending an average of seven text messages a day, DuPont is an integral part of a Filipino's everyday activities, whether they realize it or not.

In the Philippines, however, DuPont's actual operations are of a different kind.

The multinational company known best as the manufacturer of Teflon coating came to the country in 1973, as DuPont Far East Inc.-Philippines.

Its core markets include agriculture and nutrition, building specialties, automotive, food, beverage and packaging, industrial chemicals and electronics.



DUPONT officials during the firm's 7th annual tree planting activity. Caring for the environment ranks high on the firm's list of corporate priorities.

DuPont has three central operating plants in the Philippines: A crop protection plant in Carmelray Laguna, the Pioneer corn seed plant in South Cotabato, and a performance coatings office and training center, which supports the local training program for its customers.

"We are a diverse company, but in this country, we have three operations, two of which are in agriculture," DuPont Philippines country managing director Ramon Abadilla said in an interview.

He pointed to the company's Pioneer corn seed plant, which produces the seeds used by corn farmers to cultivate this economically important crop.

"In corn seed, we are number one in market share," he said.

Abadilla estimates that the local market for corn seed is worth about P1.5 billion.

Although the total production of DuPont's facility is small compared to the national requirement, he said that this remained significant because of the quality of the corn that grow from the company's corn seed.

"Our corn seeds are selling very well [because] it has one of the highest yield rates," he said, explaining that the corn seed from DuPont's local facility produces larger

GLOBAL/ B2-2

'We want to take sustainability to the next level,' says DuPont's Abadilla

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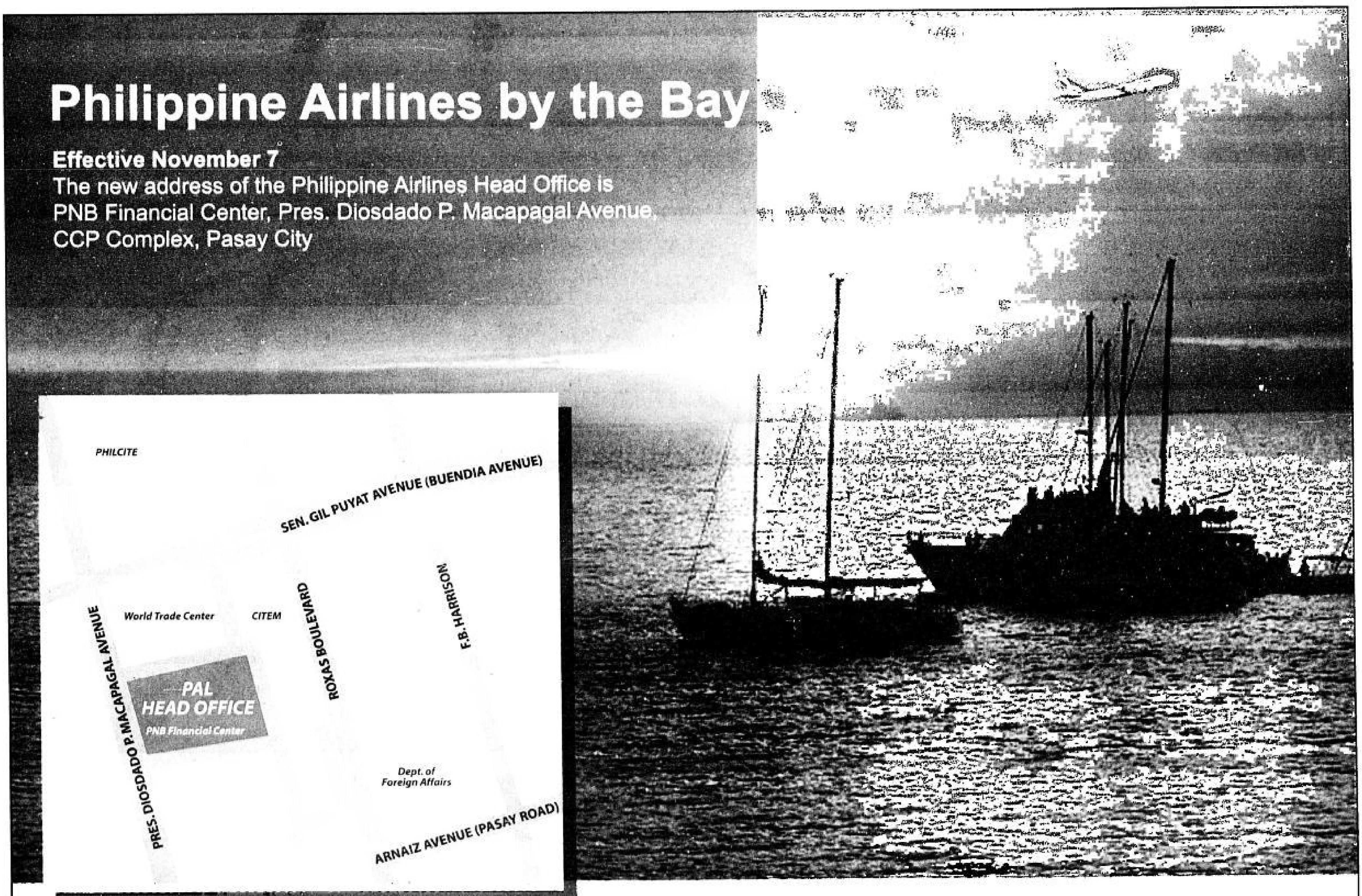

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Views on RP economy are a-changing

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Manuel V. Pangilinan
Chair, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

THERE HAS BEEN A SEA CHANGE IN the perception about the Philippine economy—with renewed interest in infrastructure, real estate, mining, tourism and power.

This has happened in just 12 months.

Major fiscal adjustments made by the government in 2005 and 2006, abetted by abundant global liquidity, have been the two critical factors which have reversed investment sentiment on the Philippines.

This more confident outlook has indeed led to higher investment inflows recently.

FDI data in the past two years have been particularly strong.

In 2005, the Philippines approved a total of $1.7 billion in foreign direct investments. In 2006, this figure nearly doubled—reaching $3.2 billion in approved FDIs—the highest level recorded in the past seven years.

But how big are we really on the investment radar screen?

Seen in the context of aggregate FDI's received in 2006 by the six major Asean countries—Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines—we accounted for only an average of 3 to 4 percent of such consolidated FDIs since 2003.

Challenge ahead

We barely led Indonesia, which landed last in rank. And in comparison, Vietnam attracted 12 percent of the total FDIs of these six countries, a 100-percent rise from the 6-percent share it had in 2005.

That said, the opportunity to enhance our investment attractiveness is clearly at hand, now that prospects for, and perception of, the Philippine economy are the most sanguine as they have been in recent memory.

Which economic model should the Philippines adopt then to lift its growth rate, and make it globally competitive?

The answers to these questions point to offshore remittances and the outsourcing business being the most important features of our economy.

VIEWS/ B3-2

THE MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL: TAKING LEAPS AND BOUNDS

When the Manila Doctors Hospital was established 50 years ago, its founders envisioned it to become a tertiary hospital that is keenly attuned to the needs of Filipinos from all walks of life.

Over the years, the Manila Doctors Hospital has realized that vision.

It continuously upgrades and expands by maximizing the expertise of its current crop of medical professionals and developing new centers of health care.

It serves a countless many with its wide range of specializations. Today, Filipinos know Manila Doctors Hospital as a complete medical institution what with the different departments in operation.

These include Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, ENT, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Anesthesia, Rehabilitation Medicine, Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, Family Medicine, Dental Medicine and Pathology.

The Manila Doctors Hospital likewise developed specialized medical service units as they saw the need to grow further, such as the Intensive Care Unit, its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Hemodialysis Unit, Kidney Stone Center, Urogynaecology Unit, Nuclear Medicine Unit and its Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

New Horizons

Now, many Filipinos trust the hospital more than ever and one of the initial choice hospitals for their wellness.

But the Manila Doctor's Hospital is setting its sights on far greater horizons.

The first hospital in Manila to earn an ISO Certification has invested an enormous amount of effort to further upgrade its services and expand its medical expertise.

It has added new centers of wellness and health care that address specific health concerns.

Housed within its newly built Doña Salustiana Building are specialty clinics such as the Aesthetics Center, Child Neuroscience Center, Geriatrics Multidisciplinary Center, Pain Management and Wellness Center and PRO-HEALTH Education and Research Center.

It also now has an Allied Services Building that serves as the home of the Industrial Medicine Services Department.

A Team of Outstanding Doctors

Above all these developments, the institution takes pride in having some of the best medical specialists within its quarters. Its field of professionals of more than 300 active and 600 courtesy members on board the medical and dental departments is some of the best the country has.

All of the institution's physicians are Fellows, Diplomates or have earned both certifications from their respective fields of specialization. Many of them sought training overseas as others are affiliated with the UP-Philippine General Hospital and other similar institutions.

Many of these professionals have been recognized here and abroad for their contribution to the greater spectrum of the medical field.

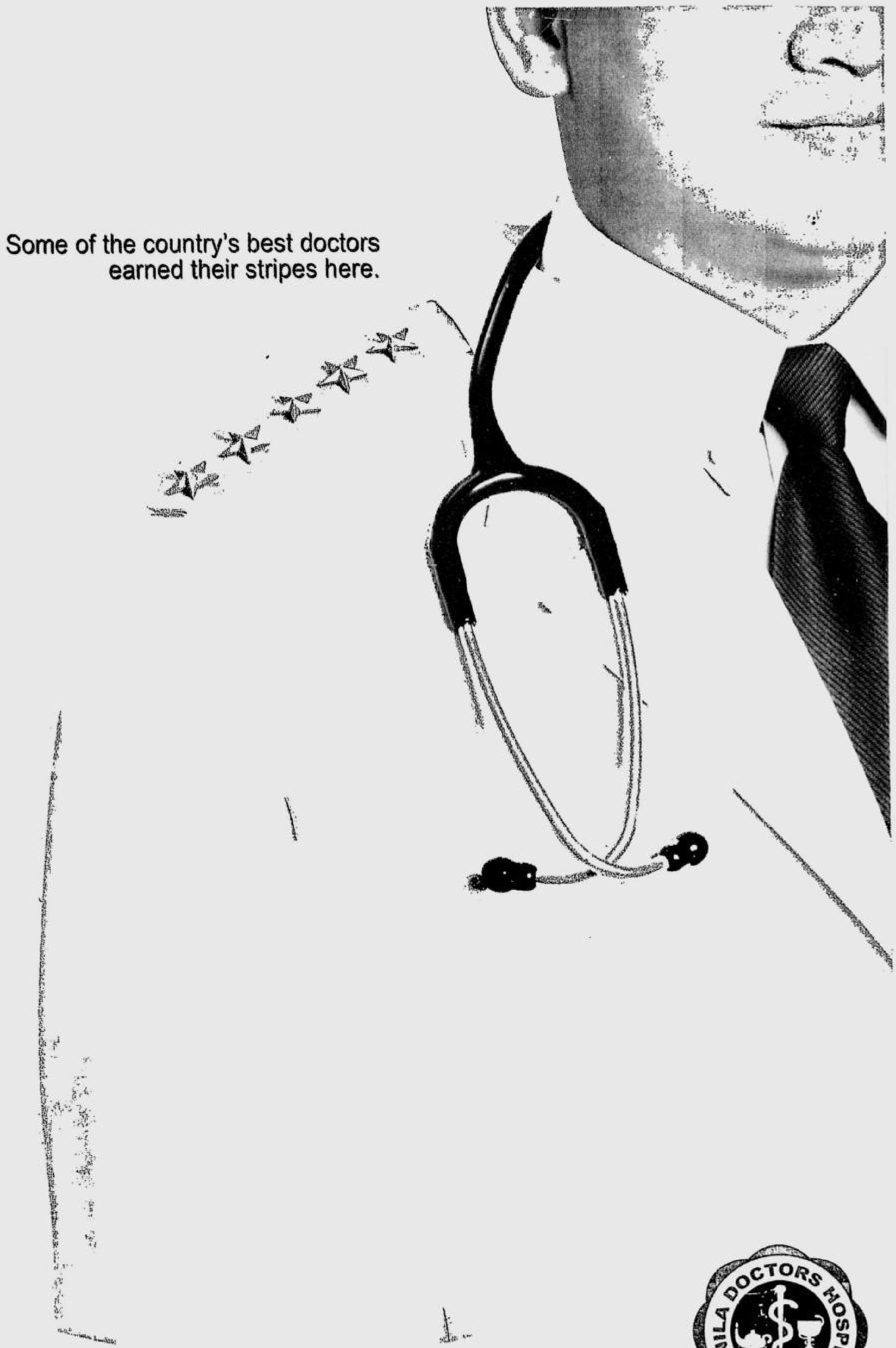
In fact, a handful of them were recently handed out awards.

Most notable among these awardees are Dr. Clemente Amante who was awarded as the Most Distinguished Physician of the Year (2007) by the Philippine College of Physicians, Dr. Fernando Piedad who was given the Centenary Award by the Polish Society of Internal Medicine and Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society, Dr. Abundio Balgos who was given the 16th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award for Academe & Research by The Philippine Medical Association, Dr. Antonio Oposa who was chosen as the Outstanding Professional of the Year (2007) for Medicine by the Professional Regulations Commission and Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua who was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for Promotion of the Endocrine Health of Undeserved by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

Keeping its Commitment

At this point in its history, the Manila Doctor's Hospital stands tall and proud with its many accomplishments. It is poised to evolve even further.

But if there's one other reason why Filipinos can continue to trust and rely on the Manila Doctors Hospital, it's that they will continue to offer world-class care within your reach.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Albay's geothermal energy answer to power crisis

Underutilized resource deserves gov't attention

By Ephraim Aguilar and Niña Catherine Calleja
Tiwi, Albay

A HUGE AMOUNT OF STEAM GENerated from the geothermal operations in this town, northeast of Legazpi City, is not being maximized by the government, said Arthur Baria, asset affairs supervisor of Chevron Geothermal Philippines Holdings Inc.

Baria said geothermal energy has great potential in solving the power crisis now gripping the country since it is less expensive than coal and bunker.

The Chevron executive cited an earlier report on the shortfall in the supply of water—a resource also used to generate power—due to lack of rains. This lack had led to the reduction of water supplied to Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

He said the dry spell in Luzon should prompt authorities to immediately focus on other energy resources, particularly, geothermal.

Unlike other energy resources, geothermal presents no logistical concerns, like transportation, Baria said.

And when the government taps geothermal energy, it can expect to save as much as $5 billion in foreign exchange, he added.

Underused

"In Tiwi, only 60 megawatts out of the 150 megawatts produced by the geothermal plant were being used by NPC during off-peak hours, and 100 percent on peak hours," said Baria.

He added that they had been urging the government to consider geothermal as a primary source of energy, and maximize its use in the country.

On the average, only 8 percent of the energy used by the country comes from geothermal; 15 percent from water; and 22 percent from natural gases.

Fossil fuel accounted for the bulk of 55 percent.

Supplying 20 percent of power in the Luzon grid, geothermal operations in Tiwi marked a first in the country. Tiwi has become one of the largest producers of geothermal power in the world.

Service provider

Chevron operates the Tiwi geothermal facilities on a 1,800-hectare property. The American company is a service provider to the government-owned National Power Corp. (NPC).

Chevron supplies steam generated by underground heat to the NPC, which converts it to electricity.

The American firm manages two out of seven geothermal plants in the country.

Advantages

Despite a huge capacity in generating clean, renewable, and affordable energy, geothermal plants could not be considered the main sources of power in the country, Baria said.

As of 2004, geothermal comprises only 8 percent of the country's power mix.

Chevron maintains that geothermal is the cleanest energy form after hydroelectric.

It is also environment-friendly since it does not use nonrenewable fossil fuels that produce harmful emissions.

And, unlike coal, oil, and methane, geothermal energy emits around 80 percent less greenhouse gases, such as sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide.

Challenges

According to the Department of Energy, technical constraints and the lack of private sector investments are hampering geothermal projects in the country.

"The development of promising geothermal areas had been temporarily set aside pending technological breakthroughs in handling acidic wells," the DOE stated in its website.

The passage of laws on environment preservation, such as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act," and empowerment of cultural minorities, like the "Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997," also posed constraints, the website added.

The DOE said the laws affect geothermal ventures, which entail additional costs.

Exploration of the geothermal area in Tiwi started in 1972. A year after, the Naglagbong well was discovered. At present, there are 39 production wells and 21 injection wells at the site.

Tiwi geothermal, which started commercial operations in Jan. 11, 1979, has an installed capacity of 289 megawatts and available capacity of 234 megawatts as of July 2007.

Its cumulative gross generation as of December 2005 was 40,166 gigawatt-hours.

Views on RP economy are a-changing

From page B2-1

The developing OFW market and the other side of the same economic coin, the outsourcing business, have created a separate yet significant sub-sector, which has been called an "enclave economy"—one whose links to the mother economy become more tenuous as it grows in size and distance from it.

Enclave economy

This enclave economy may, in fact, become both a blessing and a potential threat. Why is this so? Because these set into motion the following processes:

First, exogenous remittances finance domestic consumption. Consumption thereby rises and becomes an increasingly dominant factor of our economic growth.

Second, inward flows provide an upward bias to our currency. Typically, a strong currency depletes manufacturing and export competitiveness, causing investment in, and output by, these sectors to weaken.

Third, where no large demands are made on the production sector, no significant investments will be made into it. Perhaps this partly explains the recent anemic record of domestic investments.

This process explains the emergence of what some UP economics professors have labeled the "Shoe Mart" or "SM-economy"—advancing consumption, retail and wholesale trade, and real estate, on the one hand; and increasingly lukewarm manufacturing and investments, on the other.

Paradoxically, the flows of forex spawned by out-migration and our outsourcing businesses have caused a peso appreciation that undermines their very purpose.

It is estimated that since 2004, a lower peso has cost the overseas workers and their families more than P188 billion in purchasing power.

It has also impacted adversely the position of certain key businesses.

As to when the current remittance-driven episode will moderate is a difficult prognosis to make. The only certainty is that the 10-12 percent remittance growth every year cannot last indefinitely, because the domestic economy will suffer in the long run from its adverse side effects.

At some point, the forces for a slow implosion can result in a situation where the increasing exodus of workers creates only as many jobs and incomes abroad as it destroys at home, leaving the economy unimproved or even worse off.

In the ultimate analysis, despite the potential hazards these twin phenomena might bring, they have been marvelous success stories, worthy of national pride and respect.

Way forward

Let me now turn to the question—how can we accelerate growth and enhance its impact? The answer may involve five critical variables:

1. Investment in education

The first crucial variable is education. The crisis in education is public knowledge, and its issues are complex. Let me just emphasize that education is critical to maintain the momentum of our exodus and domestic industries.

2. Investment in natural and human resources

Beyond education, a number of domestic industries possess reasonably good prospects. What are these?

First, businesses which offer unique locational or resource advantages. In this regard, tourism and mining provide us with competitive benefits over other countries. These opportunities simply reflect the return to favor of natural resources in the global economy.

Second, businesses that are themselves by-products of the skills exodus. Medical tourism and the retirement businesses are cases in point. The production of nurses and caregivers would inevitably give rise to a surplus, of which can then be mobilized for the tourism and retirement industries.

Third, businesses linked to information and communications technology. The remarkable growth in the scale and scope of the BPO is testimony to this fact. Sadly however, compared to our perceived potential in ICT, current efforts remain meager.

3. Investment in infrastructure

As to infrastructure, the country has been a perennial laggard in league tables, ranking 51st among 55 countries in terms of quality infrastructure, according to the world competitiveness rankings of 2006.

Investment spending in infrastructure would raise the demand for imports and dollars, thereby draining the pressure on peso appreciation.

Moreover, it would lower the cost of domestic production, providing an added incentive for investors to locate domestically and promote home employment.

To get most out of the limited resources devoted to infrastructure, both the government and the private sector should mobilize, direct and focus their infrastructure spending at those strategic locations that will help "catalyze" aggregate economic activity.

4. The poor and agriculture.

Notwithstanding the strategic importance of agriculture to our economy, it has historically been accorded step-child attention. The agricultural sector, broadly defined, accounts for about 2/3 of the labor force and 40 percent of GDP. Most importantly, 70 percent of our poor live in rural areas.

Developing agriculture

A stagnant agricultural sector worsens rural poverty, and incubates a second kind of enclave economy by forcing massive migration to the cities.

A domestic contract worker—or DCW—sub-economy has therefore emerged, creating a significant flow of domestic remittances from workers in cities to their families in the provinces.

Developing agriculture would feed our people, and stem rising rural poverty.

Finally, the poor performance of Philippine agriculture can be traced to weaknesses in government policies, and the distortions and inefficiencies caused by expensive government intervention in the market.

As well, our laws affecting agricultural development are not investor-friendly.

Our Constitution limits foreign ownership of land, while the comprehensive agrarian reform program or CARP, restricts the size of landholdings and stifles the development of a land market by making transfers of title illegal.

Both these policies militate against catalytic commercial farming, which requires significant hectarage, large investments, and long gestation.

Commercial farming

To revive commercial farming, we must revisit Section 27 of the CARP law, and amend it to allow landholders to sell or otherwise dispose of their landholdings precisely to allow consolidation of land and achieve economies of scale.

This will require a change in attitude as well—away from the romantic notion that the tiller must be the landowner, or that producer-cooperatives are the only viable form of large-scale agriculture.

5. Peso appreciation

I'm glad to note that the government has taken the first steps to prevent any further unwarranted rise in the peso.

Indeed, the situation has reached the point of national urgency that coalitions of overseas workers and exporters have already broached the idea of dual exchange rates—not a good idea.

The government has started to shift its borrowing and repayment mix by paying down foreign debt through domestic borrowing. This has to be accelerated.

In addition, it would be a reasonable exercise for the government to consider ways to create a soft landing for the peso, by allowing it to rise at managed, if not also predictable, fashion.

A guided predictability will allow businesses to plan and operate better.

Apart from dealing with the new problem of an appreciating peso, the government may have some difficulty closing the national budget gap by 2009, without the help of one-time privatization proceeds. Like corporations, I believe the market and international credit rating agencies gauge performance based on recurring streams of revenues, profits, and cash, and less on exceptionals such as privatization receipts.

Conclusion

Let me conclude by saying that while the five critical variables I've identified are capable of keeping us in the radar screen of global investors, and making us globally competitive, success will come only from quality execution by quality people.

We should take heart from a report recently made by the French Investment Bank—Credit Lyonnaise or CLSA—"the next generation Filipino is evolving in many aspects—from the changing character of Philippine politicians, to the deepening talent pool of managers in the corporate sector, and finally to the developing Filipino worker—local and overseas. We expect the global Filipino to emerge in the next 10 years. The country therefore has a solid fundamental foundation. The tipping point will take place in the next five to 10 years."

(This is an abridged version of the keynote address delivered by the author during the 33rd Philippine Business Conference and Expo "One. Global. Filipino. Through Public-Private Partnership")

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3823 Series of 2007

Sablan shares troubles of a 5th-class municipality

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SABLAN, BENGUET—THIS TOWN IS known as Benguet's fruit basket and a halfway paradise between Baguio City's cool climate and La Union's warm weather ideal for swimming and nature trekking.

But trade and local officials said despite the branding, investments are still scarce.

They lamented that most tourists and visitors just pass through the town on their way to the city or the lowlands.

The town has an annual income of only P26 million and officials are desperately looking for ways to improve on its fifth-class classification.

Looking for investors

Their challenge is to place Sablan (area: 9,160 hectares; pop: 9,652) on the business map.

"We ask investors to explore Sablan," Mayor Bonifacio Tacio said.

Officials are pushing Sablan to become the "catchment basin for subdivision projects" and as a strategic site for a casino and a cockpit.

They wanted Sablan to be transformed from a low-key agriculture economy to a bustling industrial haven.

Aside from banana and pineapple, Sablan's farmers are also dependent on lanzones, rambutan, jackfruit, ube, lychee, guyabano, guava, cucumber, papaya, mangosteen, durian, santol and tiger grass for their livelihood.

A Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) investment brochure said Sablan's pineapple, banana and jackfruit are ideal for joint ventures.

It was hoped that these agreements would bring in the technology needed for the mass production of processed fruit products.

Soft brooms

Sablan also sees growth potential of its *walis tambo* (soft broom) industry.

"Sablan is the largest commercial producer of soft brooms and baskets due to the availability of tiger grass and bamboo in the town," the brochure said.

The town badly needed the sales pitch.

After all, it was once the province's banana and pineapple capital but a deadly virus, called "bunchy top," swept its plantations five years ago and wreaked havoc on Sablan's economy.

Only the tiger grasslands sustained a decent handicraft industry.

"Our production dropped. Wholesalers in Baguio City felt the pinch when their supplies failed to arrive," Tacio said.

Sablan can still revive their banana industry, but the farmers cannot afford to wait.

Councilor Herminigildo Ome, chair of the council committee on agriculture, said the town's farmers were not ready to stop planting for 10 years as recommended by University of the Philippines Baguio and Benguet State University experts so that the soil can recover from the effects of the virus.

Ome said the BSU developed a new culture for banana to replace the damaged varieties but the farmers found out that the tubers were only good for one cropping.

Gone was Sablan's pride in its bananas, particularly the lakatan variety.

There are still bananas but these are not as robust and as many as before.

More than half of the town's agricultural land used to be devoted to banana and pineapple.

Today, only close to a fourth of the original area remains planted to bananas and pineapples.

The town, however, is still pinning its hope on its fruits.

Officials had considered passing a measure to consider ube (yam) as the official entry to the One Town One Product (Otop) program of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The plan was scrapped, however, when officials found out that Sablan's ube was losing out to the competition in the market.

Now, town officials want something new—explore the town's real estate potentials.

Five companies have already acquired property to be developed into subdivisions.

The town council also passed a resolution as early as 2005 requesting the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to consider the town as a possible location of a casino.

But Pagcor snubbed Sablan's request saying that the town has no hotels that could host tourists and the casino.

"Anytime Pagcor wants to come, they are still welcome," Tacio said.

Tacio said a casino, a cockpit and a hotel could employ many residents here and help them get over the problem with the bunchy top virus.

"But we are not abandoning agriculture," he said.

> Benguet's fruit basket turning to real estate industry for help in its economic growth

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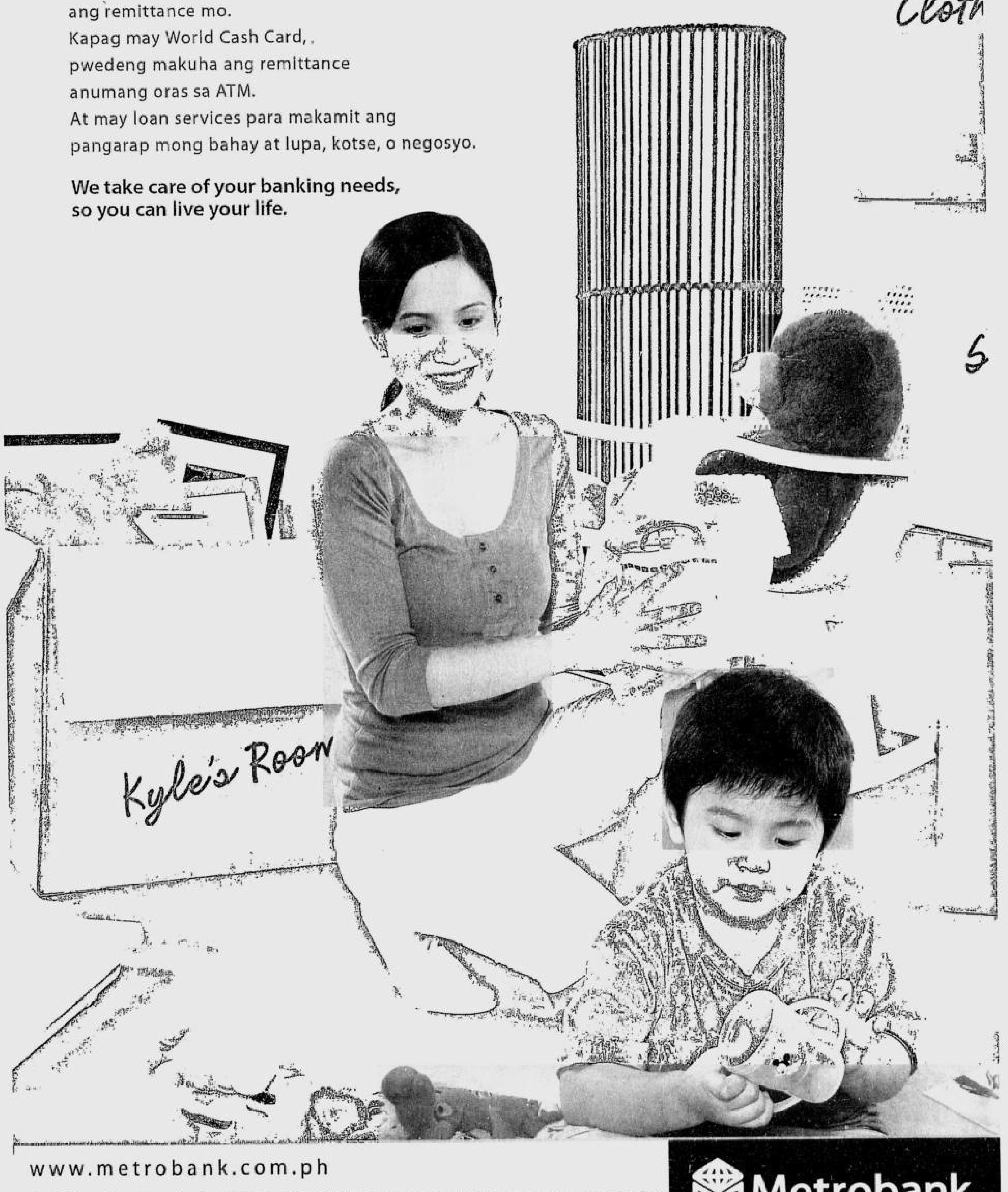

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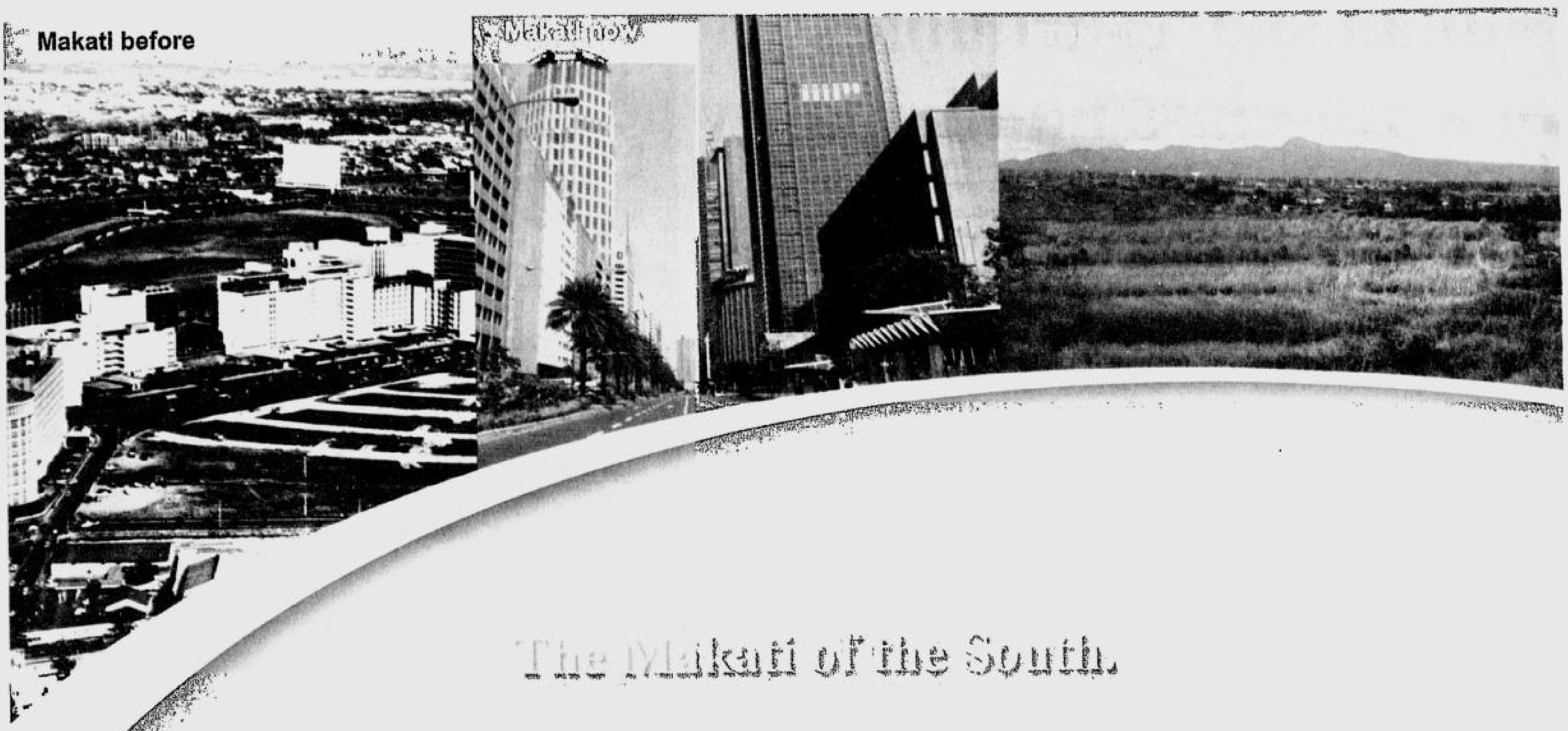
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ETON CITY

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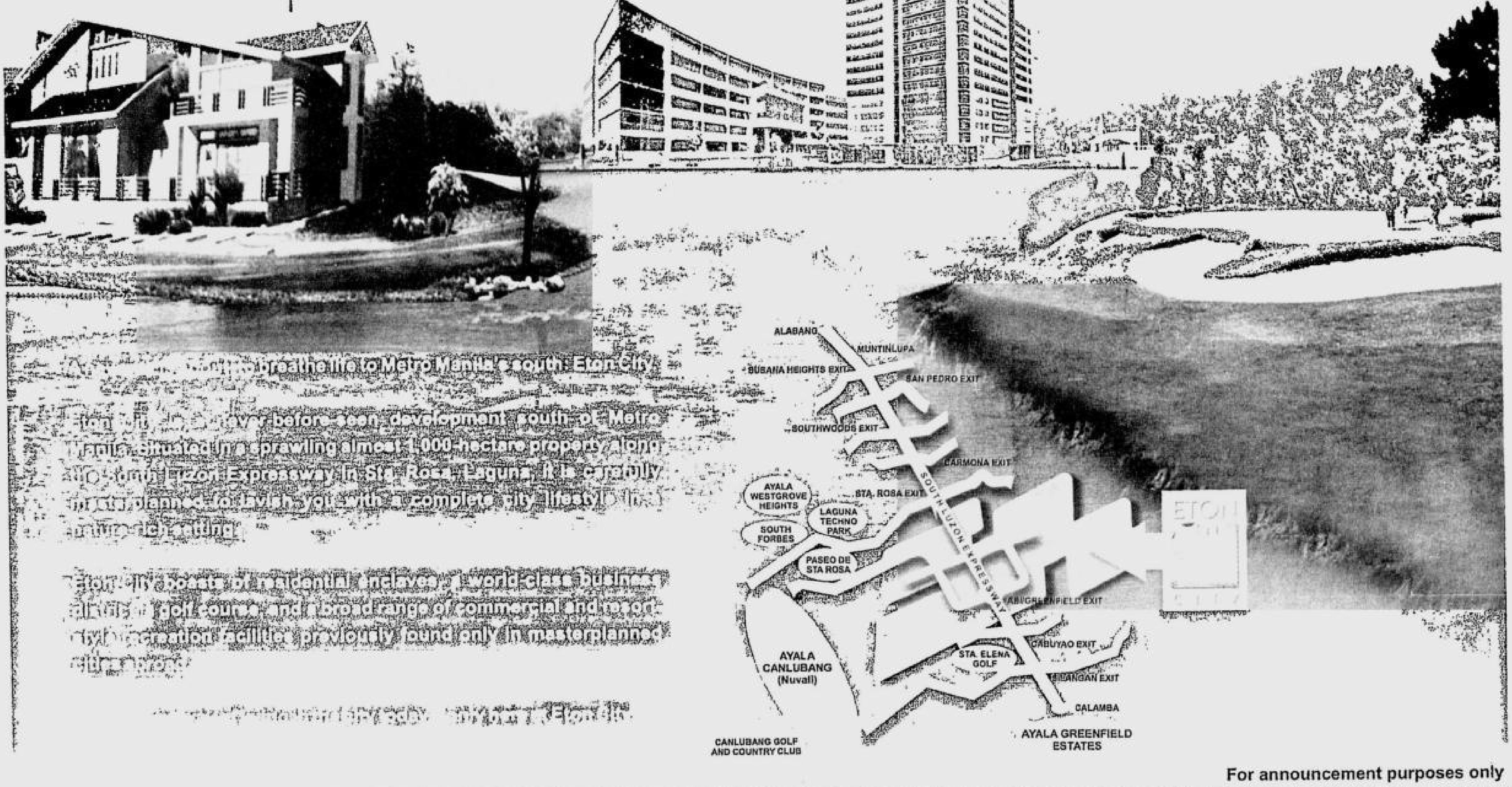
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Eton City is a never-before-seen development south of Metro Manila. Situated in a sprawling almost 1,000-hectare property along the South Luzon Expressway in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, it is carefully masterplanned to lavish you with a complete city lifestyle in a nature-rich setting.

Eton City boasts of residential enclaves, a world-class business district, a golf course, and a broad range of commercial and resort-style recreation facilities previously found only in masterplanned cities abroad.

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Call centers even for small businesses

EVEN small and medium scale firms need call centers.

By Daxim L. Lucas

CALL CENTERS ARE ALL THE RAGE FOR large companies that want to maximize their opportunities while reducing costs by outsourcing some of their operations to external service providers.

But what about smaller companies that want to take advantage of the outsourcing trend?

For the most part, outsourcing has remained prohibitive and daunting to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), many of which are unable to realize greater operational efficiencies because most business process outsourcing (BPO) firms continue to focus on top-tier corporations.

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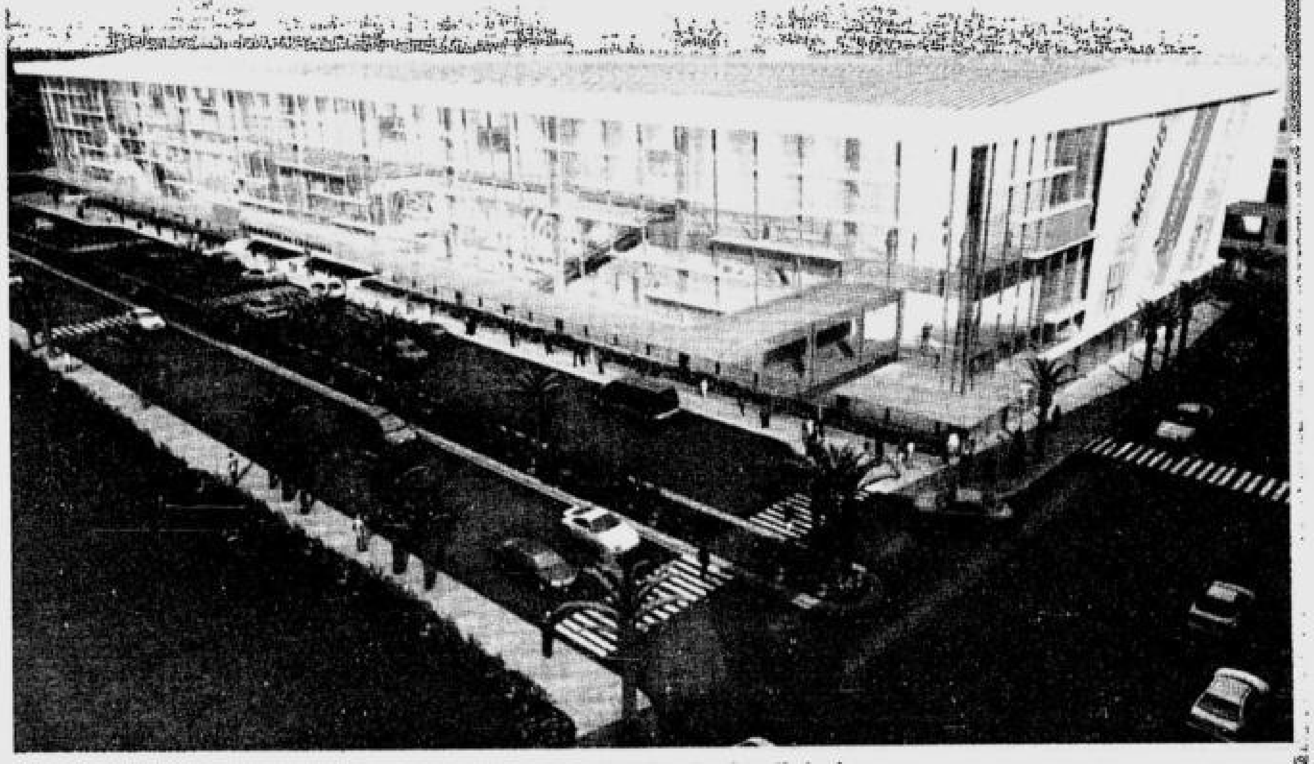
ANOTHER BIG STATEMENT FROM SM

The world finally meets at SMX CONVENTION CENTER

No other convention corner in the country comes close to the experience and size of this world-class convention and exhibition center


With floor area of more than 46,000 square meters, SMX undoubtedly is the biggest convention and exhibition structure in the country.

"BEING THE BIGGEST" IS ALREADY A COMMON notion associated with the SM name. There's no doubt that SM Mall of Asia (MOA) is currently biggest mall around the corner and IMax located inside MOA boasts of the biggest cinema screen and experience in the entire cinema world.

And now comes SMX Convention Center, which undoubtedly is the biggest convention and exhibition structure ever built in the country. With floor area of more than 46,000 square meters and standing three storeys high, SMX is an imposing monolith of steel and glass structure inside Mall of Asia Complex, the 60-hectare one stop, self-contained community project by the SM Investments Corporation.

SMX is a private sector initiated project that aims to promote the country as a destination for international convention and exhibitions. With SMX now being an integral part of the whole Mall of Asia Complex, this ambitious development on the coast of Manila Bay has now become a definitive showcase of the country's appeal as a regional hub for tourism and business conferences.

According to Dexter Deyto the Senior Assistant Vice-President of SMX, the Philippines is now a destination for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions because now it has world-class business facilities like the SMX. The country also has a globally oriented society, a predominantly English-speaking population, and hospitable and friendly people that make this country suitable to hold international conventions.

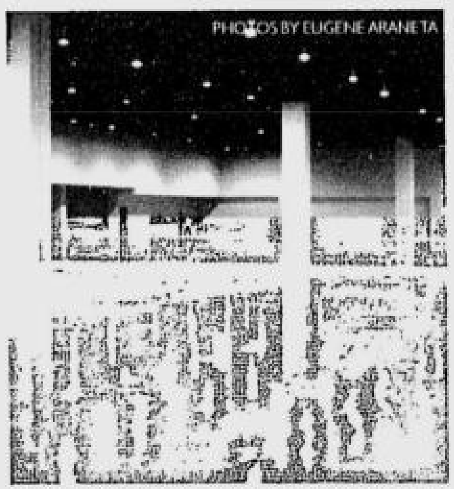
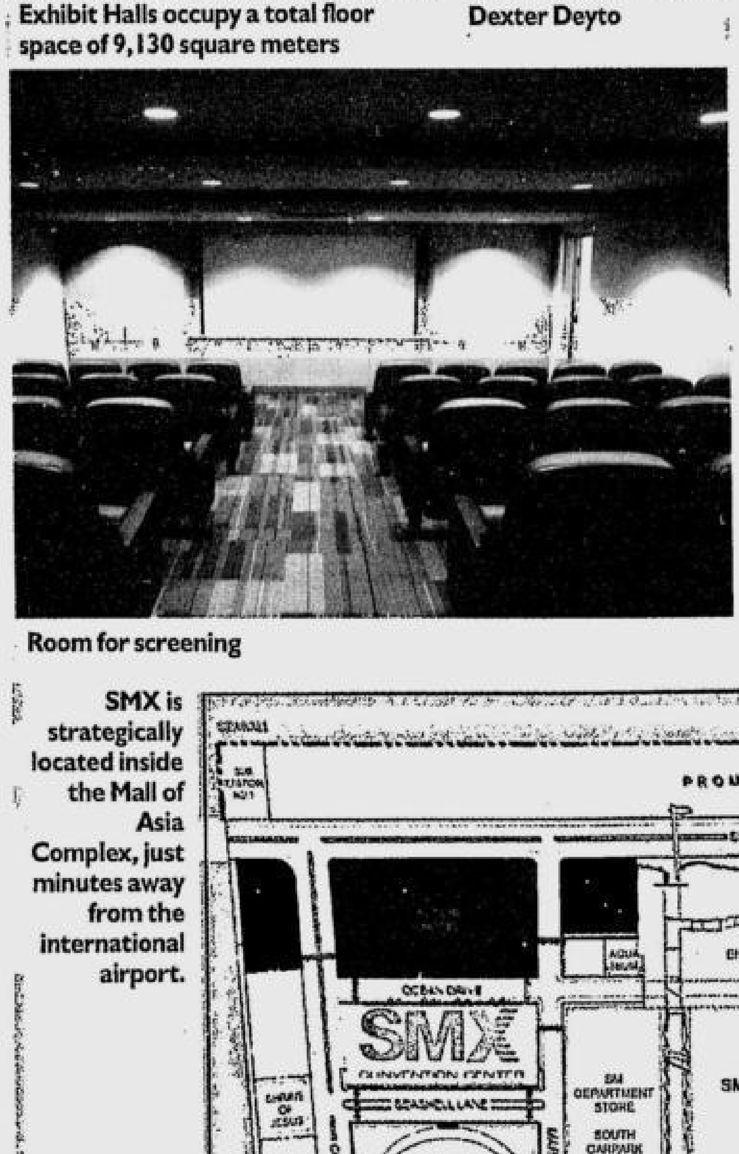

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

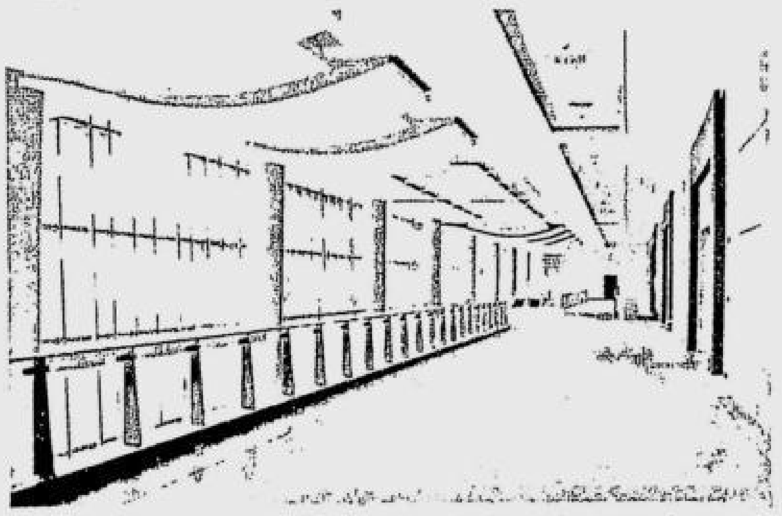
Exhibit Halls occupy a total floor space of 9,130 square meters

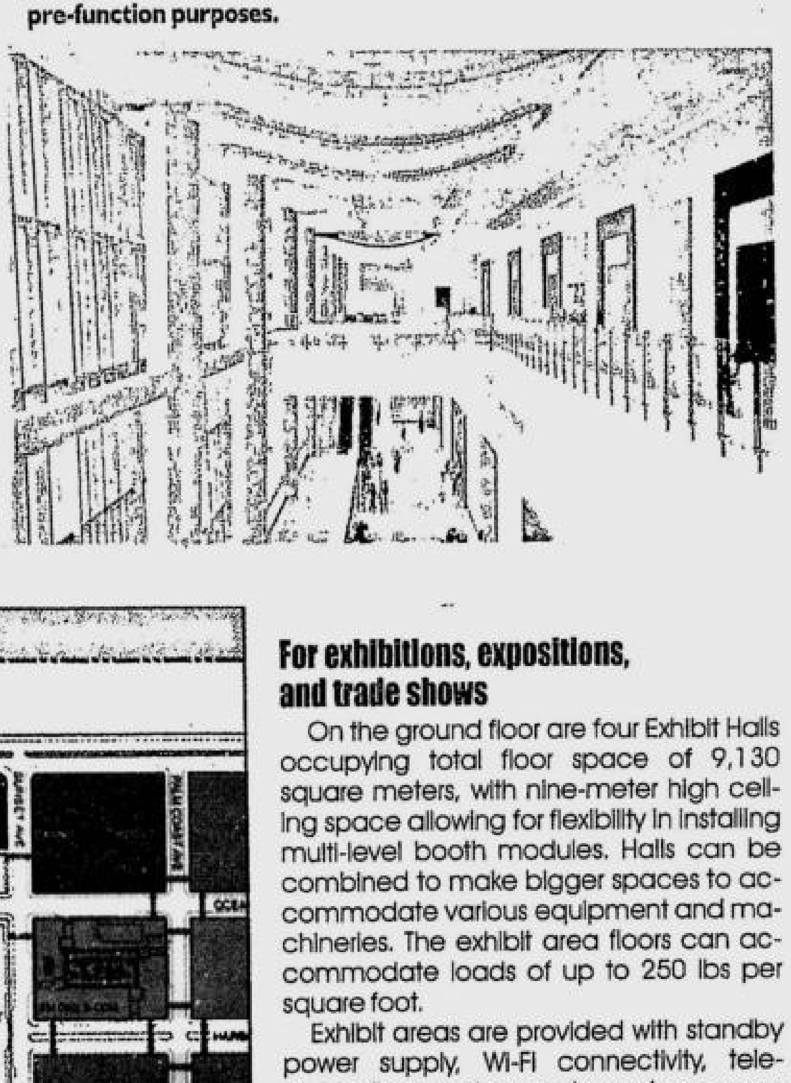
Dexter Deyto


Room for screening

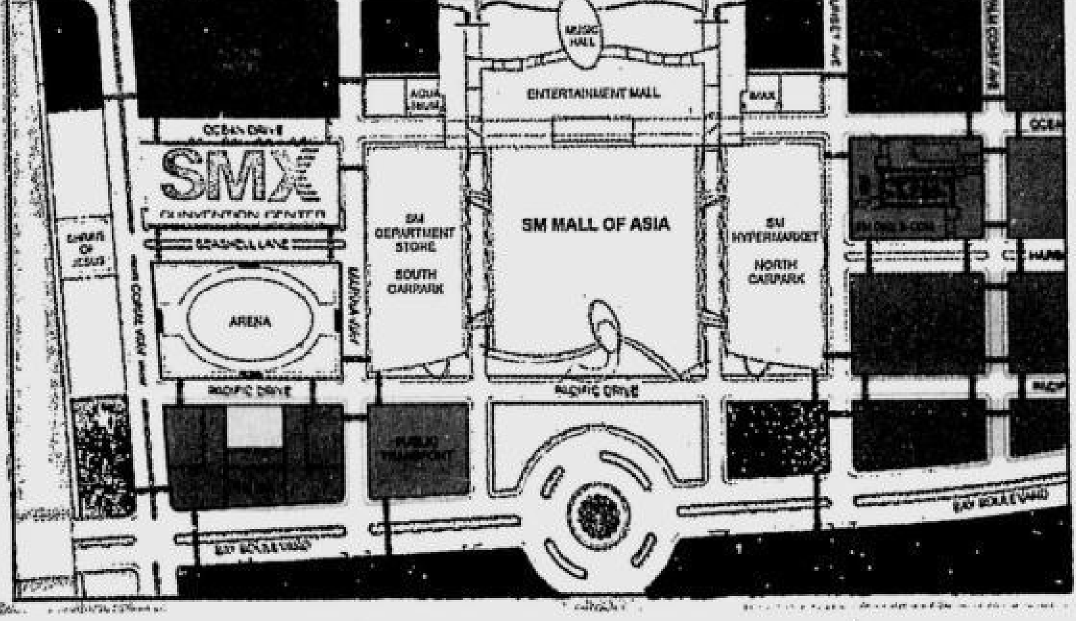
"For a very long time people have been waiting for a big, new and a world-class venue for exhibitions and conventions to be established. And now SMX has finally arrived," says Deyto. "And it's ready to put the country in the world map of preferred destination for exhibitions."

SMX facility consists of open exhibition areas, multi-functional halls and flexible function rooms suitable for large-scale trade events, major medical and other industry conventions and corporate functions imaginable. It offers facilities for all kinds of events--from hi-tech interactive trade shows, expositions, concerts to exhibits and receptions. The logistical and personal support it offers is at par with the best in the world.


The ground floor lobby can also be used as exhibit area or for pre-function purposes.



SMX is strategically located inside the Mall of Asia Complex, just minutes away from the international airport.



For exhibitions, expositions, and trade shows

On the ground floor are four Exhibit Halls occupying total floor space of 9,130 square meters, with nine-meter high ceiling space allowing for flexibility in installing multi-level booth modules. Halls can be combined to make bigger spaces to accommodate various equipment and machineries. The exhibit area floors can accommodate loads of up to 250 lbs per square foot.

Exhibit areas are provided with standby power supply, Wi-Fi connectivity, telephone lines, water supply, service access escalators and elevators. The ground floor lobby can also be used as exhibit area or for pre-function purposes.

As a point of advantage and benefit for clients, SMX offers concierge service to assist guests with information for hotel booking and flight confirmation, parking as well as restaurant reservations.

For conventions, meetings, and any event for that matter

Located on the third floor is the Convention Center, where rooms and floor areas can be adjusted to suit the needs and capacity of any type of event, from a small board meeting, large convention, to a grand banquet, cultural show or concert.

The five function rooms can be combined so that the area can seat anywhere from 500 to 4,100 guests. The ten meeting rooms can also be combined to accommodate small meetings of 10 people to 200 people for a seminar function. The Theater Room is particularly configured for special functions that require elevated seating arrangements.

Anticipating the exhibitor's needs always

SMX has partnered with a number of respected companies like hotels, caterers, audio-visual equipment and service providers, freight forwarders, exhibit and booth suppliers to provide exhibitors and convention people a worry-free arrangement of their events. SMX's services include professionals and experts in the field to ensure clients of success with their events.

SMX can cater to events of any size giving clients the finest service and facilities such as dedicated convention manager and staff for each function, catering and banquet services, dedicated kitchen per function room, concierge service, onsite parking for 400 vehicles, client services like business center, VIP lounge, the Internet and telecommunication facilities, security, cleaning and tech support services, and events management services as well.

SMX has already attracted a number of events happing these coming days, like the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers' Convention and Exhibit, COMDDAP IT Expo, Trade Show International's Manila Auto Salon and the AHPADA International Arts and Crafts Exhibition, and a number of Corporate Christmas Parties.

"We've been very successful with Megatrade Hall," says Deyto. "This time we went further and bigger with the concept by establishing SMX within the Mall of Asia Complex that will house the future hotels and an arena--to truly support the vision of SM to make this country a regional hub for business, pleasure, tourism and entertainment."

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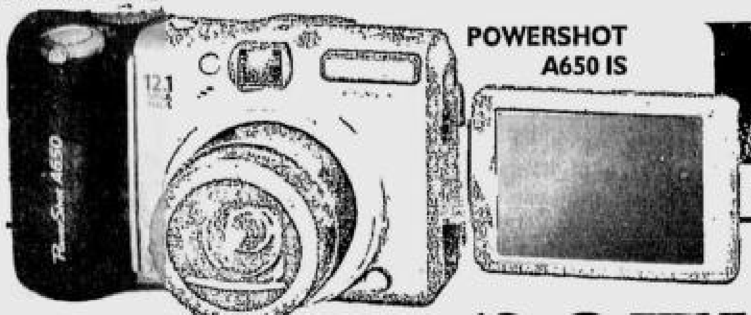
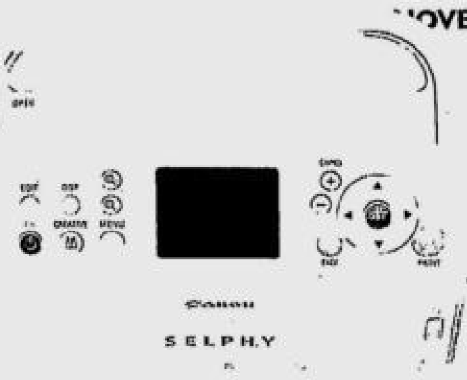


POWERSHOT A650 IS



POWERSHOT G9 (below) and CANON SELPHY ES20 (left)

There's power to go with the style

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

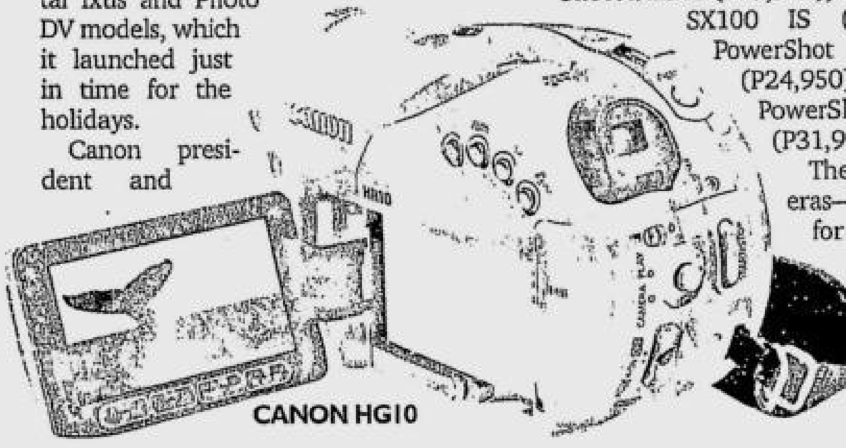
IT IS JUST 50 DAYS BEFORE Christmas, and many Filipinos are getting ready to buy something grand for themselves or their loved ones as soon as that bonus gets in.

Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc. hopes that, when they do, they will choose among its new PowerShot, Digital Ixus and Photo DV models, which it launched just in time for the holidays.

Canon president and CEO Ramon G. Arteficio told the INQUIRER that the Japanese subsidiary in the Philippines was banking on the Filipinos' preference for gadgets as a gift item.

"The launch is Canon's way of ensuring that the Filipinos are all geared up with the best tools that will help them capture their special holiday images and memories this Christmas," Arteficio said.

To the award-winning PowerShot digital camera line, Canon adds the PowerShot A720 IS (P19,950), PowerShot SX100 IS (P21,950), PowerShot A650 IS (P24,950) and PowerShot G9 (P31,950).



CANON HG10

The cameras—perfect for hobbyists and those just starting to get a hang of digital photography—boast of the optical image stabilizer, which reduces blurring due to camera shake, and extended zoom of up to 10 times.

The PowerShot cameras also have Canon's new select and track feature capable of detecting up to 35 faces in a frame and shooting modes ranging from fully automatic to fully manual.

The top of the line is the PowerShot G9, which many professional photographers consider the best companion to the Canon EOS single lens reflex cameras, like the new Canon 40D.

The G9, a follow-up to the popular G7, has a resolution of 12.1 megapixels, 6x optical zooms, large three-inch LCD and a manual mode dial. It is also compatible with wide angle and telephoto lenses and has an accessory hotshoe compatible with a flash.

For those who are looking for style as well as performance, Canon offers the Digital Ixus 860IS (P24,950) and 960IS (P29,950).

The 860IS is power packed with a resolution of eight megapixels, 28mm wide angle shooting and three-inch LCD.

The 960IS, on the other hand, is encased in pure titanium and is the new flagship model of the Ixus line. It has a resolution of 12.1 megapixels and a compact 4x optical zoom lens.

Canon
IS
6x
8.1
CANON ZOOM LENS

POWERSHOT A720 IS

"We have found that women worldwide buy the Ixus line because of the style. They like the style and the performance," Arteficio said.

Aside from the cameras, Arteficio said Canon was also optimistic about the prospects of its HG10 AVCHD Camcorder (P74,950), its first foray into the hard disk drive digital video camera and reputed to be the smallest in the market.

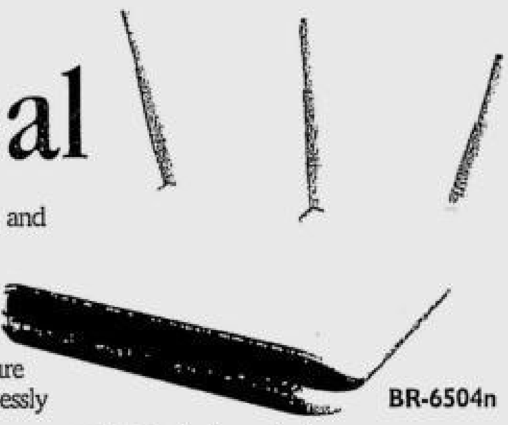
Like the PowerShot, the Camcorder also has image stabilization feature that corrects camera shake during hand-held filming and a high-resolution image processor designed for high-definition video requirements.

It can store up to 40GB of video or up to 12 hours of continuous recording, and can double as a digital camera because it can take still photos directly from the video footage.

Arteficio said that, with the launch of the new models, he was confident that Canon would continue to pull away from its competitors and cement its position as the number one brand, according to research firm GKF Asia.

"With the nearest competitor lagging by a far 9 percentage points behind, Canon is poised to dominate the charts once again this year," Arteficio added.

Wireless devices with eye-candy appeal



BR-6504n

By Raquel P. Gomez

MOST WIRELESS DEVICES IN THE market today aren't visually appealing to consumers.

This is why Taiwan-based network solution developer Edimax stands out from the rest.

Unlike the others, it came out with attractive designs for its wireless devices—such as sleek sloping white polished architecture, antennas poking from the devices and a spherical antenna relocation stand that looks like it came straight out of a sci-fi film.

Possessing eye-candy appeal like iPods, these products feature the 2.4 GHz IEEE802.11n Draft 2.0 wireless standard, which is seen becoming the standard for all next-generation wireless devices.

The IEEE802.11n Draft 2.0 is capable of 300 Mbps (megabit per second) data transfer rate that is six times faster than the current standard.

Edimax nMax wireless series starts with the BR-6504n nMax Wireless 802.11n Draft 2.0 broadband router, a sleek white device with three finger-like detachable antennas. This device can be used in tandem with the EA-Mars 802.11n/MIMO antenna relocation stand that increases the coverage area of the wireless router device.

There is also the EW-7628n nMax Wireless 802.11n Draft 2.0 PCI card which can be installed in the PCI expansion slot of a desktop. For notebooks, the EW-7708 Pn nMax Wireless 802.11n Draft 2.0 32-bit cardbus is perfect.

There is also the EW-7718Un nMax Wireless 802.11n Draft 2.0 USB adapter, which can be attached to a USB slot.

Hunter Chen, Edimax sales director, said the new housing designs and look of Edimax products was in line with the company's efforts to bring its products within reach of consumers.

Chen says Edimax products are reasonably priced compared with other popular wireless products in the market like D-link, Linksys and Netgear.

What will a Wi-Fi junkie do with the Edimax series to propagate the culture and lifestyle of the wireless world?

"A lot," said Chen.

The products prove to be very functional at home and for business.

For example a company can structure its network of computing devices wirelessly at a lower cost.

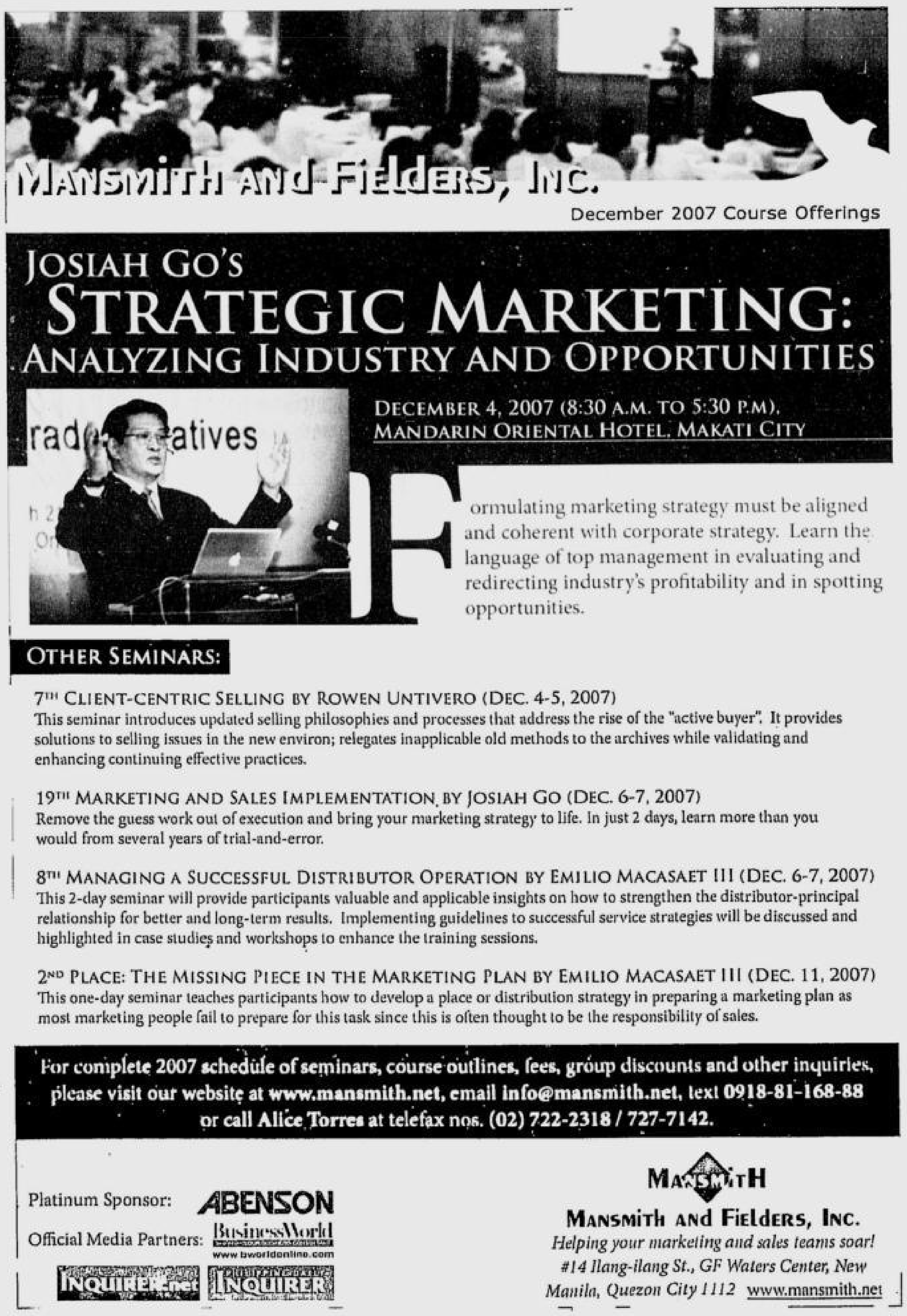
With the new 802.11n Draft 2.0 standard, Edimax devices can easily transmit large data over the air, including video presentations.

Think about it, one video presentation coming from one PC source being streamed to several LCD monitors or projectors in several meeting rooms.

As to your Wi-Fi hotspot being hacked by Wi-Fi freeloaders, don't worry.

The company has the Edimax Network Access Controller that sets up firewalls, user management and access control.

With this device, you can dictate the number of people who will have wireless access, and even control the bandwidth they're getting, which is just too bad for a lot of Wi-Fi freeloaders out there.



MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
December 2007 Course Offerings

JOSIAH GO'S
STRATEGIC MARKETING:
ANALYZING INDUSTRY AND OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER 4, 2007 (8:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M).
MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI CITY

Formulating marketing strategy must be aligned and coherent with corporate strategy. Learn the language of top management in evaluating and redirecting industry's profitability and in spotting opportunities.

OTHER SEMINARS:

7TH CLIENT-CENTRIC SELLING BY ROWEN UNTIVERO (DEC. 4-5, 2007)
This seminar introduces updated selling philosophies and processes that address the rise of the "active buyer". It provides solutions to selling issues in the new environ; relegates inapplicable old methods to the archives while validating and enhancing continuing effective practices.

19TH MARKETING AND SALES IMPLEMENTATION BY JOSIAH GO (DEC. 6-7, 2007)
Remove the guess work out of execution and bring your marketing strategy to life. In just 2 days, learn more than you would from several years of trial-and-error.

8TH MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL DISTRIBUTOR OPERATION BY EMILIO MACASAET III (DEC. 6-7, 2007)
This 2-day seminar will provide participants valuable and applicable insights on how to strengthen the distributor-principal relationship for better and long-term results. Implementing guidelines to successful service strategies will be discussed and highlighted in case studies and workshops to enhance the training sessions.

2ND PLACE: THE MISSING PIECE IN THE MARKETING PLAN BY EMILIO MACASAET III (DEC. 11, 2007)
This one-day seminar teaches participants how to develop a place or distribution strategy in preparing a marketing plan as most marketing people fail to prepare for this task since this is often thought to be the responsibility of sales.

For complete 2007 schedule of seminars, course outlines, fees, group discounts and other inquiries, please visit our website at www.mansmith.net, email info@mansmith.net, text 0918-81-168-88 or call Alice Torres at telefax nos. (02) 722-2318 / 727-7142.

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Call centers even for ...

From page B2-1

cient call center applications that are easy to install and maintain.

The value proposition of the service is that it is oriented toward smaller businesses which need smaller contact center services than those normally offered by multinational BPO firms.

THE TOURISM and finance sectors outsource some of their operations.

"Our focus is on SMEs," said ePLDT assistant vice president Yohlie C. Jarlego in an interview. "Our clients can start with as few as two to five [contact center] seats to test the waters."

This is a far cry from the several hundreds of call center agents that larger firms often require to service their needs, but Jarlego says the strategy makes good business sense.

"Our vision is to help start-up companies," she said. "Many new SMEs need call center services, but they're afraid to ask because of the costs [involved]."

Unlike the more expensive services offered by multinational BPOs, however, ePLDT's service can be scaled according to the needs of its clients from the smallest call center operation to a full-scale BPO.

The main "value proposition" of ePLDT's BPO service is the fact that it allows clients to completely avoid spending money for capital expenditures, and instead transforms the call center spending into a monthly operating expense.

"It becomes like a monthly subscription," Jarlego said.

In a statement, ePLDT president and CEO Ray C. Espinosa said that the cost of installation and maintenance of contact support solutions is prohibitive for many companies.

"The use of call centers is now a norm for many companies across industries, to provide an efficient and cost effective way of reaching out to their customers and addressing their various needs," he said. "But while there may be traditional call center solutions that may be used today to support call centers, it has become increasingly evident that these traditional solutions may not necessarily address all of the growing business functions and processes that call centers today need—given the high capital expenditure involved and the complexity of installation and maintenance."

ePLDT's Unified Contact Center Plus aims to address these multi-function and multi-process requirements. This new service is powered by Cosmocom's Contact Center On-Demand technology. Cosmocom, a global leader in unified customer communications, is also the leading provider of Contact Center On-Demand technology worldwide.

As telecommunication companies provide more messaging services and move to more web-based customer self-service, it has become increasingly important for businesses to transform their call center into one that supports every contact channel in a unified way.

Given the latest trend in customer care toward offshore outsourcing of agents, a virtual call center solution like Unified Contact Center Plus can also help companies make this move without compromising the level of service and disturbing the integrity of the application.

"With Unified Contact Center Plus, organizations enjoy speedy implementation and streamlined operations as well as reduced cost of integration, management and maintenance. It also allows companies to focus on their core business while enjoying expanded functionality in their contact center," Espinosa said in his statement.

Unified Contact Center Plus is now being used by organizations from a range of industries with a need for efficient customer management services, such as the tourism and finance sectors, telecommunications companies and retail and manufacturing industries.

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STAR ACCOUNTS
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES, INC.
(SAMSI)

STAR AUCTION PART 3

November 24, 2007 (Saturday),
Max's Restaurant, Jupiter St., Bel Air II, Makati City
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00AM
AUCTION STARTS AT 9:00AM

10% DOWN PAYMENT

10 PAYMENT TERMS

10% INTEREST FIXED PA

ACCEPTING PRE-AUCTION OFFERS!

MEGA MANILA

ANTIPOLO

SAM_ANT 002 RSDL LOT
PARKRIDGE ESTATE
(near valley golf subd.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
400 sqm.	P	560,000
433 sqm.	P	606,200
614 sqm.	P	859,600
470 sqm.	P	658,000
476 sqm.	P	666,400
1,984 sqm.	P	2,777,600

SAM_ANT 006 RSDL LOT
LA. 400sqm (near Tak-Tak Subd.)
Montecarlo St., ANTIPOLO
GREENHEIGHTS
Min. Bid Price: P 452,000

SAM_ANT007 FARM LOT
LA. 2,040 sqm.
(near Seven Dolours School)
Cor. Kasoy/Avocado Sts.
PHIL FARM VILLAGE,
Brgy. St. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P 3,498,090

SAM_ANT015 AGRI LOT
LA. 9,989 sqm.
(near Heavens Gate Memorial)
BO. CUPANG, Antipolo
Min. Bid Price.P950,000

CALOOCAN

SAM_CAL019 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,440 sqm.
(near Pag-ibig Mutual Fund)
Ge. Tirona & Gregoria de Jesus Sts.
BALINTAWAK
Min. Bid Price: P8,208,000

SAM_CAL021 RSDL LOT
LA. 405 sqm.
MIRAMONTE HEIGHTS, Camarin
Min. Bid Price: P207,343

SAM_CAL022 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sm. (Near Vicas Market)
Lot 828-B-1-C SUSANO RD.
Min. Bid Price: P7,125,000

SAM_ CAL023 RSDL LOT
LA. 736 sqm.
(Near J.P Rizal Exit, Bagong Sibul St.)
Paulicas St., MAYPAJO
Min. Bid Price: P3,496,000

MALABON

SAM-_MLB499 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 7,546 sqm. FA. 165 sqm.
(NEAR Hulo Market)
#165 Panghulo Rd.
BRGY.PANGHULO
Min. Bid Price: P16,601,200

MANILA

SAM_MLA032 WRHSE CONDO
FA. 172.29 sqm.
NEW DIVISORIA SHOPPING
CENTER,Tabora cor.
Sta. Elena Sts. Binondo
Min. Bid Price: P 6,030,150

MUNTINLUPA

SAM_MUN035 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 300 sqm.
(new New Daang Hari Rd &
PORTOFINO Vill.)
East Meadow St. Diamond
Park.VICTORIA HOMES, Tunasan
Min. Bid Price:P750,000

PASAY

SAM_PSY066 COMM'L LOT
LA. 3,008 sqm.(near Traders Hotel)
Roxas Blvd. SAN RAFAEL DIST.
Min. Bid Price·P57,152,000

PASIG CITY (ORTIGAS)

SAM_PSG071 OFFICE CONDO
LA. 198.27 sqm.
(near SM Mega Mall)
BELVEDERE TOWER CONDO.
San Miguel Ave
Min. Bid Price· 5,898,533

QUEZON CITY

SAM_NCT375 HOUSE& LOT
LA. 600 sqm. FA. 945.50 sqm.
(near SM Fairview)
Fuer de Les Mariposa St.
GENEVA GARDEN,NEOPOLITAN
Min. Bid Price:P3,800,000

SAM_QCB075 RSD'L CONDO
FA.97.28 sqm.
ATHERTON PLACE CONDO,
Tomas Morato
Min. Bid Price:P 3,404,800

SAM_QCB076 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 289.70 sqm. FA. 402 sqm.
(Near Araneta Ave.)
Palanza St., SANTOL DIST.
Min. Bid Price: P 5,753,438

SAM_QCB078 COMM'L. LOT
LA. 675 sqm.
(near Don A. Roces High Sch.)
Roces Ave./Sct. Castor St.
DILIMAN
Min. Bid Price: P12,427,425

SAM_QCB079 RSDL LOT
NEOPOLITA VII-GENEVA GARDEN
North Fairview
(along Don Mariano Marcos Ave.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
300 sqm.	P	714,000
315 sqm.	P	749,700
398 sqm.	P	947,240
450 sqm.	P	1,071,000
542 sqm.	P	1,289,960

SAM_QCB080 RSD'L LOT
NEOPOLITAN VI,SITIO SEVILLE,
North Fairview

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
300 sqm.	P	920,290
366 sqm.	P	1,122,754
377 sqm.	P	1,156,498
382 sqm.	P	1,171,836

SAM_QCL081 RSDL LOT
LA. 506 sqm.
(near Ateneo / Miriam College)
Emilio Jacinto cor. Sultan Kudarat St.
AYALA HEIGHTS Balara District
Min. Bid Price:P9,133,300

SAM_QCB083 RSDL LOT
LA. 537 sqm.
(Adjacent to Marytown Schl.)
Mary Town Circle Rd.
GREENFIELD SUBD..
Galigayahan Novaliches
Min. Bid Price:P1,932,959

SAM_QCB084 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,399 sqm.
(Near intersection of Edsa
and North Expressway)
BRGY.UNANG SIGAW
Min. Bid Price:P10,195,750

SAM_QCB085 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 1,310 sqm. FA. 1,991 sqm
(Near Tierra Pura Subdivision)
JORJO BLDG.,
Tandang Sora Ave. Culiat
Min. Bid Price: P 20,712,375

SAM_QCL086 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,355 sqm.
(Near Sandigan Bldg.)
DON FABIAN SUBD., Capitol Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P3,638,090

SAM_QCB087 RSDL/COMM'L LOT
LA. 809.80 sqm.
(near Shell Gas Station)
KALAYAAN AVE. Diliman
Min. Bid Price: P10,739,750

SAM_QCL088 RSDL LOT
LA. 750 sqm.
KATIPUNAN AVE., Payatas
Min. Bid Price:P959,923

SAM_QCB089 RSDL CONDO
FA. 288.56 sqm.
(Near Welcome Rotonda)
GENESIS COND E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.
Min. Bid Price:P6,132,325

SAM_QCB090 RSDL VAC LOT
LA 300sqm.
NEOPOLITAN 1-VILLA
VIENA,NORTH FAIRVIEW
(near SM Fairview)
13 lots available
Min. Bid Price: P1,050,000

SAM_QCB093 RSDL LOT
LA. 3,280 sqm. (near SM Fairview)
NEOPOLITAN SUBD.
Brgy. Pasong Putik

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
280 sqm.	P	931,000
300 sqm.	P	997,500

RIZAL / CAINTA / TANAY

SAM_RZL012 RSDL LOT
LA. 240 sqm. (near Mitsubishi)
No. 15 Baseball St.,
NEW FRANCIS VILL, Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

SAM_RZL013 COMM'L LOT
LA. 754 sqm.(near Mitsubishi)
ORTIGAS AVE. EXT.. San
Isidro,Cainta
Min. Bid Price:P10,744,500

SAM_RZL014 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 180 sqm. FA. 18 sqm.
B.A. Cruz St. BRGY.STA ANA
Min. Bid Price: P 396,000

SAM_RZL019 RSDL LOT
LA. 3,011 sqm.
Brgy. Sampaloc, TANAY
Min. Bid Price: P952,138

SAM_RZL450 VACANT LOT
LA. 989 sqm.(near Daong Chapel)
DINNA VILL.Tandang Kutyo,Tanay
Min. Bid Price:P140,933

SAN JUAN (GREENHILLS)

SAM_SJ098 OFFICE UNIT W/PRKG
FA. 63 sqm.
RICHBELT TOWER
Annapolis St. (Near Greenhills
Shopping Center)
Min. Bid Price: P1,615,000

TAGUIG

SAM_TAG101 FAMILY ESTATE
MEMORIAL LOTS (4 lots available)
THE HERITAGE PARK, Fort Bonifacio

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
60 sqm.	P 3,386,400
100 sqm.	P 5,644,000

VALENZUELA

SAM_VAL102 FACTORY
LA. 3,348 sqm. FA. 3,169 sqm.
(Near Malinta Exit/ Royal Mall
Lords St.) PASO DE BLAS ST.
Min. Bid Price:P 15,903,000

SAM_VAL103 5-DR RSDL APRTMT
LA. 437.70 sqm. FA. 425 sqm.
(near Bayna Commercial)
Interior Lamesa St. BRGY.UGONG
Min. Bid Price: P 1,917,813

SAM_VAL106 IND'L LOT
LA. 5,782 sqm.
(near Fatima Univ. Maysan Rd)
Francisco St. PTA
COMPOUND,Balubaran
Min. Bid Price:P 16,478,700

SAM_VAL452 RSD'L LOT
LA. 854 sqm.
Quegrande St. BRGY.UGONG
Min. Bid Price: P 1,995,000

LUZON

BAGUIO

Text 09185328111

SAM_BAG107 RSDL LOT
LA. 440 sqm.
(near woodsgate Subd.Camp7)
WOODSGATE SQUARE SUBD..
Brgy. Camp 7
Min. Bid Price:P 1,870,000

BATAAN

SAM_ BAN460 AGRI LOT
LA. 95,734 sqm.
Alas-Asin Rd. MARIVELES
Min. Bid Price: P26,848,950

BATANGAS

SAM_BAT500 RSDL LOT
L.A. 250 sqm. (2 lots available)
LIPA COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE
PHASE II, Brgy. Bulacnin, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P750,000

SAM_BAT139 RSDL LOTS
LA. 2000 sqm.
Brgy. Anilao LIPA
Min. Bid Price: P 2,550,000

BULACAN

SAM_BUL120 RSDL LOT
LA. 300 sqm.
Catindig St. Pob. GUIGUINTO
Min. Bid Price:P 1,075,114

SAM_BUL122 AGRI LOT
LA. 10,801 sqm.
BRGY.SAN FRANCISCO,
Bulacan,Bulacan
Min. Bid Price: P 3,078,000

SAM_BUL123 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 145 sqm. FA. 159 sqm.
(near Meridian Ind'l Subd.)
Brgy. Iba, MEYCAUAYAN
Min. Bid Price: P 413,250

SAM_BUL124 RSDL LOT
LA. 800 sqm.
(near Sagrada Familia Church)
Parang Rd. Brgy. Catmon
STA. MARIA
Min. Bid Price:P 1,360,000

SAM_BUL127 RSDL LOT
Gardenia St. Town & Country
North Exec. Vill. Marilao
(near SM Marilao)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price:
130 sqm.	P	370,500
135 sqm.	P	384,750
146 sqm.	P	416,100

SAM_BUL131 IND'L LOT W/ 3
WAREHOUSES
LA. 7,272 sqm. FA. 3,943 sqm.
(Near E. A. Delos Santos
Construction Supply)
NHA Ind'l Site, Brgy. Minuyan,
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE
Min. Bid Price: P 8,195,080

SAM_BUL132 AGRI LOT
LA. 7,155 sqm.
TBo. Guyong, STA. MARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,379,625

SAM_BUL133 RSD'L LOT
LA. 968 sqm. FA. 65 sqm.
(near Brgy. Chapel)
Roura St. SAN MIGUEL
Min. Bid Price: P 1,238,941

SAM_BUL134 RSDL LOT
LA. 320 sqm.
(Near DPWH Warehouse)
Cityland Ave. BULACAN HTS. SUBD.
Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 491,481

SAM_BUL135 RSDL LOT
LA. 640 sqm.
(Near DPWH Warehouse)
GREENBREEZE VILL. II
Pulong Buhangin
Min. Bid Price: P 1,360,000

SAM_BUL456 INDUSTRIAL LOT
W/ WAREHOUSE
C. Mercedao St. Bo. Matungao,
Tuktukan, Pob., GUIGUINTO

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min. Bid Price:
69,545sqm	25,270sqm	P 125,181,000
21,891sqm	9,345sqm	P 39,403,800

SAM_BUL457 IND'L LOT
LA.32,671 sqm. FA. 6,040 sqm.
Bo. Camalig (Iba), MEYCAUAN
Min. Bid Price: P108,161,403

SAM_BUL458 RSDL VACANT LOTS
LA. 80,022 sqm. (7 lots)
(Near Tabang Nlex Exit)
Phase II STA. CLARA COUNTRY
ESTATE, Sta. Rita Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price: P83,103,591

SAM_BUL459 RSDL VACANT LOT
LA. 10,000 sqm.
MENZYLAND SUBD., Mojon Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P10,200,000

CAVITE

SAM_CVT142 RSDL LOT
(near Tagaytay Royale &
Splendido) RODEO
COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE,
Brgy. Esperanza,Alfonzo

Lot area		Min. Bid Price:
1,000 sqm.	P	850,000
1,006 sqm.	P	855,100
2,271 sqm.	P	1,930,350

SAM_CVT143 RSDL CONDO
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Vill)
MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF
MANORS, Carmona

Flr Area		Min. Bid Price
35 04 sqm.	P	805,929
38.35 sqm.	P	882,060
67.07 sqm.	P	1,542,627
67.01 sqm.	P	1,541,247
73.38 sqm.	P	1,687,758

SAM_CVT145 RSDL LOT
LA. 795 sqm.
(near Robinson & SM Dasma)
Kalamansi St. GREENFIELD HTS.
SUBD., Brgy. Bukal Dasmarinas
Min. Bid Price:P 2,035,037

SAM_CVT147 RSDL LOTS
MANILA SOUTHWOODS MANOR,
Carmona (near SLEX-Golf &
Resort Vill.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price:
486 sqm.	P	1,458,000
520 sqm.	P	1,560,000
578 sqm.	P	1,734,000
582 sqm.	P	1,746,000
632 sqm.	P	1,896,000
940 sqm.	P	2,820,000

SAM_CVT453 RSD'L/IND'L LOT
LA 263,062 sqm
GOV. DRIVE EXT.. Brgy. Tanauan,
Tanza
(near EPZA & Gen. Trias)
Min. Bid Price: P125,230,132

SAM_CVT454 RSDL LOT
SHERWOOD HILLS RSD'L
ESTATE
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Club,Trece Martirez
(near SM & Robinson)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
315 sqm.	P	282,826
307 sqm.	P	275,448
323 sqm.	P	289,803
393 sqm.	P	352,609
410 sqm.	P	367,862
427 sqm.	P	383,115
523 sqm.	P	469,248
676 sqm.	P	606,523

MEGA TAGAYTAY

SAM_TGY104 RSDL LO1
PALMRIDGE POINTE PH1 SUBD.
(w/ view of TAAL Lake & TAAL
Volcano) Brgy Balas, Talisay

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
362 sqm.	P	651,600
511 sqm.	P	919,800
527 sqm.	P	948,600
529 sqm.	P	952,200
614 sqm.	P	1,105,200

LAGUNA

SAM_LGN152 RSDL LOT
SOUTHPOINT, Cabuyao & Sta. Rosa
(Beside Mapua (Malayan) University)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
180 sqm.	P	419,905
187 sqm.	P	436,234
226 sqm.	P	527,214
343 sqm.	P	810,152
374 sqm.	P	872,469

SAM_LGN153 RSDL LOT
LA. 961.00 sqm.
(Near Carmelray Industrial Park)
Montecito Estate, Canlubang,
Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P3,686,036

SAM_LGN155 RSDL LOT
LA. 874 sqm.
(Near San Pablo City Hall)
Mabini Extention, San Lucas I
SAN PABLO CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,857,250

LA UNION

Text 09064371494

SAM_LAU109 AGRI LOT W/ ROW
LA. 74,694 sqm. (interior lot)
ARINGAY, La Union
Min. Bid Price: P 3,547,965

SAM_LAU110 AGRI FARM
LA 13,687 sqm
(near Pugo Elem. Schl.)
Pugo, BAUANG
Min. Bid Price: P 5,816,975

LUCENA

SAM_QP148 72 RSDL LOT
(near NEW CITY HALL and Lucena
Proper) PUERTO DE MAR SUBD.
Brgy Ilayang Isabang

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
120 sqm	P	261,820
136 sqm.	P	296,729
138 sqm.	P	301,092
252 sqm.	P	549,729
313 sqm	P	682,913

PAMPANGA

SAM_PAM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 10,719 sqm. FA. 54 sqm.
Brgy. Tanquican, SAN FERNANDO
Min. Bid Price: P17,311,185

PANGASINAN

Text 09154348252

SAM_PSN115 RSDL LOTS W/
2-STRY. RSDL BLDG.
LA.1,530 sqm. FA.395 sqm.
(near San Vicente Elem. School)
Bgy. San Vicente, SAN JACINTO
Min. Bid Price: P 1,530,000

QUIRINO

Text 09195829178

SAM_ QUI119 RICE LAND
LA 5000 sqm.
(near Gemelina Plantation)
Brgy. Luttuad, DIFFUN
Min. Bid Price: P 118,750

TARLAC

Text 09175141884

SAM_TAR136 AGRILOT W/ House
L.A. 49,713 sqm F.A. 391 sqm.
Bo. Caluluan, CONCEPCION
Min. Bid Price: P 16,529,573

ZAMBALES

SAM_ZBS461 AGRI LOT
LA. 31,418 sqm.
Nacional Highway Bo. Asinan
Property
SUBIC
Min. Bid Price: P 14,467,538

VISAYAS

BACOLOD

Text 09214488869

SAM_BAC179 2-STRY TOWNHSE
BEVERLY HOMES TOWNHOUSES
Sta. Clara Subd.,
(near Robinson/Lopues)

Lot Area	Floor Area		Min. Bid Price
118 sqm.	163 sqm	P	1,900,000
172 sqm.	163 sqm.	P	2,215,400
181 sqm.	163 sqm.	P	2,104,630

SAM BAC181 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 400 sqm. FA. 156 sqm.
(near Airport)
BRGY.SINGCANG AIRPORT
Min. Bid Price:P 1,279,897

SAM_BAC184 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 165 sqm.(near Ceres Terminal)
NARRA AVE.
Min. Bid Price:P2,896,240

SAM_BAC185 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,107 sqm (fronting Pehmkoo)
ARANETA ST., Extension,
Brgy. Tangub
Min. Bid Price: P 4,037,500

SAM_BAC186 IND'L LOT
PAHANOY MANSILINGAN
(near CEGASCO)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
8,000 sqm	P	6,800,000
29,405 sqm.	P	13,967,375

SAM_BAC189 RSDL LOT
LA. 446 sqm.(near Police Head
Quarters)
Purok Paho 1, CAMINGAWAN,
Brgy.Estefania
Min. Bid Price:P947,750

SAM_BAC190 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,460 sqm.
(near Police Head Quarters)
Burgos Ext. CAMP ALFREDO
MONTELIBANO
Min. Bid Price:P 1,861,500

SAM BAC191 RSDL LOT W/ 2
STRY. RSDL BLDG.
LA. 2,710 sqm. FA. 820 sqm.
(near Robinson's & ABS-CBN)
Gatuslao St., CAPITOL SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 8,139,196

SAM_BAC193 COMM'L LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
(near Shell Gas Station)
P. Hernaez, Street Ext.
CITY HEIGHTS SUBD.
Brgy. Taculing
Min. Bid Price:P 6,399,487

SAM_BAC195 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,534 sqm.
(near Police Headquarters)
Handuman Rd.,
BRGY. MANSILINGAN
Min. Bid Price: P1,380,000

SAM_BAC196 2-STRY COMM'L BLDG
LA 178 sqm FA.326 sqm
(near Bus Terminal)
C-50 NARRA AVENUE
Capitol Shopping Center
Min. Bid Price: P2,670,000

SAM_BAC198 RSDL LOTS
LA. 1,968 sqm.
(near Montebello Subd.)
LA HERANCIA NEGRENSE SUBD.
Brgy. Mandalagan
Min. Bid Price:P5,535,556

CEBU

Text 09266256957

SAM_CBU166 RSD'L LOT
LA. 9,794 sqm.
(w/n Alta Vista Golf & Country Club)
BRGY. TOONG PARDO
Min. Bid Price: P5,640,508

SAM_CBU168 OFFICE CONDO
IAU TOWER, D. Jakosalem St.,
(near Uptown Area)

Lot Area		Min Bid Price
59 sqm.	P	1,092,000
84.48 sqm.	P	1,343,232
120.81 sqm.	P	1,920,879

SAM_CBU171 RSD'L VACANT LOT
LA. 1,859 sqm. FA.103 sqm.
(mins. Away from White Beaches
of Mactan) Brgy. Pajo,
LAPU-LAPU CITY
Min. Bid Price:P 3,283,087

SAM_CBU173 SINGLE STRY
COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 5,659 FA. 324 sqm
(w/n Olanga Island)
Sta. Rosa, LAPU-LAPU CITY
Min. Bid Price:P4,000,000

ILOILO

Text 09206186282

SAM_ILO200 RSDL LOT
LA. 6,000 sqm
(near Mutual Home Subd.)
Brgy. Ilaya, ZARRAGA
Min. Bid Price: P2,468,000

SAM_ILO201 RSDL LOT
LA. 495 sqm.
(near Cristina Subd.)
Brgy. Cagbang OTON,
Min. Bid Price:P940,000

SAM_ILO206 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 2,412 sqm. FA. 459 sqm.
(near Alegre small Fishfolks MPC)
Arevalo-Oton Prov. Rd.,
Brgy. Alegre, OTON
Min. Bid Price:P 5,685,304

SAM_ILO207 RSD'L LOT
LA. 114,783 sqm.
(adjacent to Balibagen Brgy. Chapel)
Balibagan-Oeste, STA. BARBARA
Min. Bid Price:P 48,782,775

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Text 09214488869

SAM_NO208 RSDL LOT
LA 180 sqm.
VILLA ANGELA SUBD.,Talisay City
Min. Bid Price: P135,000

MINDANAO

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Text 09217388885

SAM_CDO220 RSDL LOT
BRGY. CARMEN(near NIA Office)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
600 sqm.	P	268,778
1,409 sqm	P	901,752

SAM_CDO232 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,021 sqm.
(inside Villa Ernesto Subd.)
VILLA ERNESTO SUBD., Ph 2, Gusa
Min. Bid Price:P706,503

SAM_CDO 212 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,284 sqm
BO. PUNTOD
Min. Bid Price: P342,600

SAM_CDO 216 RSDL LOT
LA. 413 sqm
Ramoncita Velez St.,
APOVEL SUBD., Bulua District
Min. Bid Price: P935,000

SAM_CDO221 AGRI LOT
LA. 28,907 sqm.
(near Women's Dev't Center)
BRGY. CANITO-AN
Min. Bid Price:P3,665,643

SAM CDO225 RSDL LOT
LA. 500 sqm.
(inside Agapi drive Subd.)
Tibasak, MACASANDIG
Min. Bid Price: P625,000

SAM_CDO227 COMM'L LOT
LA. 442 sqm.
(adjacent to Xavier Univ.)
HAYES ST. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P4,525,717

SAM CDO228 COMM'L LOT
MAKAHAMBUS Burgos St. Pob.
(Near FaithTabernacle Churh)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
349 sqm.	P	1,794,000
618 sqm	P	3,177,000

SAM CDO231 AGRI LOT
LA. 47,975 sqm.
(near Catanico Elem. Schl.)
Catinaco, SINONOP DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P4,077,875

SAM_CDO233 RSDL LOT
LA. 27,929 sqm.
(near Bulabal Elem. Schl.)
BALUBAL
Min. Bid Price:P4,747,930

SAM_CDO235 RSDL LOT
(w/ 2-stry. H&L & single Stry. H&L)
LA. 2,130 sqm. FA. 338 sqm
Super highay, KAUSWAGAN
Min. Bid Price:P4,089,272

SAM_CDO237 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 1,662 sqm FA. 173 sqm.
(across the property of Oro Rama
Mega Center) LAPASAN
Min. Bid Price: P8,310,000

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

SAM CMP240 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,204 sqm. FA. 505 sqm.
(near Rural Bank)
Judge E. Chavez St.
POB. NABUNTURAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,311,495

SAM_CMP241 RSDL BLDG.
LA. 300 sqm.
Malasugan-Panag Rd. Brgy. Panag
Bo. Kalipunan, NEW BATAAN
Min. Bid Price:P255,000

SAM_CMP244 RSDL LOT
LA. 7,727 sqm.
Penaranda cor. Gen. Ebuen Sts.
POBLACION MONYAKO
Min. Bid Price:P16,419,875

DAVAO

Text 09198209662

SAM_DAV 251 AGRI LOT
LA. 39,366 sqm
(near San Agustin Chapel)
Sitio Ramihan, TORIL
Min. Bid Price: P13,089,195

SAM_DAV252 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,334 sqm. (near Pilipinas Ave.)
Zamboanga cor. Samal Sts.
INSULAR VILL., Pil, Buhangin
Min. Bid Price:P7,683,224

SAM_DAV254 COMM'L LOT
LA. 20,884 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY Brgy. Dumoy
Min. Bid Price: P5,895,481

SAM_DAV255 RSDL/COMML LOT
LA. 157 sqm.
(near University Of Immaculate
Concepcion) Bonifacio St
STA. ANA DISTRICT
Min. Bid Price: P2,402,100

SAM_DAV256 RSDL LOT
LA. 300,000 sqm.
Brgy. Baliok DIST. OF TALOMO
Min. Bid Price: P53,638,053

SAM DAV257 RSDL LOT
LA. 90,473 sqm.
(near Davao Holy Trinity)
Brgy. Road, BRGY. BAGO GALLERA
Min. Bid Price: P30,081,750

SAM_DAV258 INDL LOT W/ HSE
LA. 18,823 sqm. FA. 122 sqm.
National Highway, Bago Aplaya,
DUMOY, Toril
Min. Bid Price:P31,999,100

SAM_DAV261 VARIOUS COMML BLDG
LA. 6,760 sqm FA. 3,944 sqm.
(near Ecoland subd.)
QUIMPO BOULEVARD, Matina
Min. Bid Price: P60,000,000

SAM_DAV263 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 500 sqm.
Diamond St. NACILLA SUBD.
Brgy. Ma-a Talomo
Min. Bid Price:P1,062,500

SAM_DAV280 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
BO. PAMPANGA
Min. Bid Price: P2,375,000

SAM_DAV281 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 894 sqm. FA. 90 sqm.
(right behind Farmacia Sta. Ana,
Matina) STO. NINO COMMUNITY,
Brgy. Matina
Min. Bid Price: P2,207,000

SAM_DAV285 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,417 sqm.
Upper Piedad, TORIL DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P14,000,350

SAM_DAV286 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,562 sqm
(near Pilipinosas Subd.)
San Vicente, PANABO
Min. Bid Price: P640,000

SAM_DAV291 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 806 sqm. FA. 216 sqm.
Near Poblacion Brgy. Hall
ELPIDIO QUIRINO AVE.
Brgy.4 Pob. Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P6,060,000

SAM_DAV292 RSD' L LOT
LA. 4,000 sqm.
NAT'L H-WAY, Bago
Min. Bid Price: P11,775,056

SAM_DAV294 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,044 sqm.(near NIA Rd)
Brgy. Del Pilar, NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price:P1,943,330

SAM_DAV296 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 600 sqm FA. 81sqm.
(near Alliance Learning Center)
Brgy. Road, Poblacion
NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price: P450,000

SAM_DAV298 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 14,214 sqm. FA. 360 sqm.
(along MATI Nat'l Highway)
BRGY. BAGUMBAYAN, Lupon
Min. Bid Price:P1,819,246

SAM_DAV299 INDS'L LOT
LA. 94,687 sqm
Davao – Agusan Nat'l. Road
Brgy. Mahayag, BUNAWAN DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P224,881,625

SAM_DAV301 AGRI LOT
LA. 74,632 sqm.
BRGY. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P31,718,600

SAM_DAV307 AGRI LOTS
LA. 477,481sqm.
BO. MATINA PANGI
Min. Bid Price: P 179,055,375

GENERAL SANTOS

Text 09267666746

SAM_GSC314 COMML LOT W/ IMPVT
LA 7,501 sqm FA 4,697 sqm
(BESIDE China Bank)
SANTIAGO BOULEVARD,
Barrio Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P96,759,750

SAM_GSC316 AGRI LOT
LA 18,369 sqm
(Near Tinagacan Proposed Market
Site) BARRIO TINAGCAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,351,044

SAM_GSC318 RSDL LOT
LA 1,470 sqm.(w/n Roca Subd.)
BRGY. APUPONG
Min. Bid Price:P624,750

SAM_GSC320 IND'L LOT
LA 30,907 sqm.
(near former MSU Rd)
BARRIO TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price: P9,918,245

SAM_GSC321 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,034 sqm. FA 246 sqm.
(Near Cambridge Hotel and
Restaurant) MANANSALA SUBD.
Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price:P3,241,828

SAM_GSC322 RSD'L LOT
LA. 360 sqm
(back of Horizin Tin Can)
DON GABRIEL SUBD. Bo. of Tambler
Min. Bid Price: P306,000

SAM_GSC326 IND'L LOT
LA. 10,304 sqm.,
BO. OF TAMBLER (MCU Rd.)
Min. Bid Price:P 2,189,600

SAM_GSC330 RSDL LOT
LA 457 sqm (near Gen. San City
Terminal) BULAONG SUBD.
Dadiangas North
Min. Bid Price:P868,300

SAM_GSC331 RSDL LOT
LA 5,000 sqm
(near Monsanto Hybrid Farm)
Brgy. Rd. Purok 18,LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC332 HOUSE & LOT
LA 596 sqm FA 103 sqm
Bluefin cor. Goldfish Sts.
ESPINA SUBD., Purok Mauswagon
Brgy. Labangal (near SSS)
Min. Bid Price:P849,086

SAM_GSC334 RSDL LOT
LA 749 sqm(near Pacheco Subd.)
AQUINO SUBD., Purok Kaunlaran
Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price:P636,650

SAM_GSC336 RSDL LOT W/ IMPVT
LA 603 sqm FA 78 sqm
Pili corner J.P. LAUREL ST.
Min. Bid Price:P1 537,650

SAM_GSC339 COMM'L LOT
LA 778 sqm. (Fronting former
Bayfront Noodle House)
P. Acharon Blvd. cor.
Salazar & Veterans Sts.
BRGY. DADIANGAS SOUTH
Min. Bid Price: P11,242,100

SAM_GSC341 COMM'L LOT
LA 1,109 sqm
CALUMPANG AVE., Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P4,092,559

SAM_GSC343 AGRI LOT
LA 20,293 sqm
Packing One,
SLAUGHTER HOUSE RD.
Min. Bid Price:P1,638,660

SAM_GSC344 RSDL LOT
LA 694 sqm
(near Gen.San Cockpit Arena)
National Highway
BO. OF APUPONG
Min. Bid Price:P616,446

SAM_GSC345 HOUSE & LOT
LA 389 sqm FA 161 sqm
(near Notre Dame College)
Balagtas Street, BO. DADIANGAS
Min. Bid Price:P1,098,169

SAM_GSC346 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 425 sqm.
Dalandan St., w/n DADIANGAS HTS.
Min. Bid Price: P707,783

SAM_GSC348 HOUSE & LOT
LA 451 sqm FA 248 sqm
(meters away from Desmark
Motors) ROXAS ST. (near SSS)
Min. Bid Price: P6,926,805

SAM_GSC350 RSDL LOT W/ IMPVT
LA 3,303 sqm FA.830 sqm.
(nea Medoz Pension Jazz House)
MORALES SUBD., Bo. Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P3,931,576

SAM_GSC351 HOUSE & LOT
LA 645 sqm FA 194 sqm
ROSAS ST.
Min. Bid Price:P2,630,431

SAM_GSC352 HOUSE & LOT
LA 476 sqm FA 122 sqm
AVILA SUBD. Brgy. San Isidro,
Lagao (near Alphine Subd.)
Min. Bid Price:P 609,231

SAM_GSC353 AGRI LOT
LA 76,229 sqm
(Near St. Peter Chapel)
Lanton. BO. OF SINAWAL
Min. Bid Price: P9,756,530

SAM_GSC355 INDS'L LOT
LA 19,663 sqm.
(near MGTK Fishing Industry)
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P7,186,827

SAM GSC356 HOUSE & LOT
LA.598 sqm FA 220 sqm.
(near Eduard Cocolumber)
Purok San Vicente ESPINA,
Min. Bid Price:P765,379

SAM_GSC358 IND'L LOT
LA 20,000 sqm.
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price: P4,250,000

SAM_GSC359 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm
(Near Holy Cross Parish)
CATAPANG HTS. SUBD.
Brgy. Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P340,000

SAM_GSC361 HOUSE & LOT
LA 302 sqm FA 70 sqm.
Mangustan St. BRGY.
DADIANGAS NORTH,
Min. Bid Price: P1,159,587

SAM_GSC366 RSDL APARTMENT
LA 199 sqm FA 123 sqm
PUROK BAGONG SILANG
Labangal
Min. Bid Price: P422,875

SAM_GSC367 WHOLE
SUBD.W/O DEV'T
SERRAMAR EXEC. HOMES,
Conel Rd., Lagao,
(near w/n Brgy. Makar)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,801 sqm. (5 lots)	P 1,938,000
68, 441 sqm. (5 lots)	P27,633,054
97,474 sqm. (4 lots)	P39,183,700

SAM_GSC370 HOUSE & LOT
LA 604 sqm FA 272 sqm
Mangustan Street,
BRGY. DADIANGAS NORTH
Min. Bid Price: P1,788,128

SAM_GSC373 AGRI LOT
LA 11,894 sqm.
(Near Shmneville Subd)
Farm Road, BRGY. LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P2,981,970

SAM_GSC466 IND'L LOT
LA. 16,248 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY CALUMPANG,
Brgy. Makar
Min. Bid Price: P41,883,560

SAM_GSC467 IND'L LOT
LA. 13,544 sqm.
Makar-Siguil Rd.New
Bohol,CALUMPANG
Min. Bid Price: P18,650,088

SAM_GSC468 COMM'L LOT
LA. 206,346 sqm.
Bo. Lamcanal,MALANDAG
Min. Bid Price: P7,639,163

KIDAPAWAN

Text 09157470332

SAM_KID374 AGRI LOT
LA 12,474 sqm
BRGY. PACO Kidapawan
Min. Bid Price: P1,060,290

MISAMIS

Text 09217388885

SAM_ MIS469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 11,378 sqm FA 238 sqm
ALUBIJID, Misamis Oriental
Min. Bid Price: P1,934,260

NORTH COTOBATO

Text 09157470332

SAM_NCT376 AGRI LOT
LA 49, 538 sqm
National Rd., Brgy. Manubuan,
MATALAM
Min. Bid Price:P3,633,750

SAM_NCT377 RSDL LOT W/
PIGGERY
LA 15,000 sqm FA 1,320 sqm
Brgy. Katidtuan, KABABACAN
Min. Bid Price: 2,550,000

SOUTH COTOBATO

Text 09157470332

SAM_SCT378 INDS'L LOT W/
MOTORPOOL
LA 3,000 sqm FA 330 sqm
LIGTAS VILLAGE, Cannery Rd.,
Polomok (near Tropiland Pawnshop)
Min. Bid Price: P2,550,000

SAM_SCT380 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,064 sqm
(near Sto.Nino Parish)
M. ROXAS BLVD. EXT..
Poblacion, Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price:P904,400

SAM_SCT381 AGRI LOT
LA 8, 640 sqm
STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P1,468,800

SAM_SCT382 RSD'L LOT
LA 13, 477 sqm
(near Sto.Nino Nat'l Town Hall)
POB. STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P5,727,725

SAM_SCT383 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,651 sqm FA 278 sqm
Bonifacio St., POB. NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P776,811

SAM_SCT384 HOUSE & LOT
LA 22, 687 sqm FA 176 sqm
(near Bonzo Ricemill)
Bo. Simsiman, POBLACION
NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P9,641,975

SAM_SCT385 HOUSE & LOT
LA 340 sqm FA 145 sqm
POBLACION NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P 319,946

SAM_SCT386 RSDL LOT W/ WRHSE
LA 2, 581 sqm
POBLACION STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: 2,193,850

SAM_ SCT387 HOUSE & LOT
LA 798 sqm
Rosal St. Brgy. POB. SURALLAH,
Min. Bid Price: P 789,697

SAM_SCT470 RSD'L LOT
Barrio 8, KORONADAL

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
2,128 sqm.	P 904,400
2,701 sqm.	P1,377,425

SAM_SCT472 HOUSE & LOT
LA 409 sqm FA 101 sqm
(near Our Lady of Lourdes
Hospital) H. DEPITA SUBD.
Koronadal
Min. Bid Price: P521,475

SAM_SCT473 RSD'L LOT
LA 3, 241 sqm
Barrio 8, KORONADAL
Min. Bid Price:P1,377,425

SAM_SCT474 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,073 sqm. FA. 170 sqm.
PUROK SAMPAGUITA
Pob. Sto. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P4,560,250

SULTAN KUDARAT

Text 09157470332

SAM_SUL397 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 642 sqm.(near Metrobank)
BO. DANSULI, Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P2,245,700

SAM_SUL399 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm. FA 107 sqm
Buencamino cor. Tiongco Sts.
BO. KALWAG 1 Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P1,279,897

SAM_SUL400 2-STRY COMM'L BLDG.
LA 750 sqm FA 533 sqm
QUIRINO AVE., Poblacion.
Tacurong City
Min. Bid Price:P4,799,615

SAM_SUL401 HOUSE & LOT
Molave cor. Flores Sts.
(near Esperanza Mun. High Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area		Min Bid Price
423 sqm	370sqm	P	1,797,750
405 sqm	163sqm	P	3,442,500

SAM_SUL402 AGRI LOT
LA 10,161 sqm
(infront of Ezperanza High Schl.)
Molave Ext., POBLACION,
Esperanza
Min. Bid Price:P1,300,504

SAM_SUL403 RSDL BLDG
LA 607 sqm FA 114 sqm
Dona Sts. POB. ESPERANZA
Min. Bid Price:P948,404

SAM_SUL406 HOUSE & LOT
LA 494 sqm FA 148 sqm
(near RCBC Isulan)
Along Municipal Rd.,
KALAWAG III, Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P4,199,000

TAGUM

Text 09267666746

SAM_TGM411 AGRI LOT
LA 4, 328 sqm
(Near Univ. of Southeastern Phil.)
Brgy. Apokon, PUROK V
Min. Bid Price:P1,839,400

SAM_ TGM415 INDS'L LOT
LA 6,000 sqm
(Near San Vicente Ferrer Chapel)
APOKON
Min. Bid Price:P3,876,000

SAM_TGM423 RSD'L BLDG.
LA 225 sqm FA 172 sqm
(Near Queen of Apostle Seminary)
Prk. Sampaguita Rd. 1,
MAGUGPO WEST
Min. Bid Price:P478,125

SAM_TGM428 AGRI RICEMILL
LA 1, 757 sqm.
PUROK PAG-ASA, Pagsabangan,
Min. Bid Price:P1,493,450

SAM_TGM431 AGRI RAW LAND
LA 23, 441 sqm.
(near UMTagum Coll.)
VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P6,973,698

SAM_ TGM436 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm
MEL VILLAGE, Brgy. Visayan Vill.
Min. Bid Price:P2,287,177

SAM_TGM437 COMM'L LOT
Quirante II St. PRK. LAPU-LAPU,
Magugpo (near JVC,back of JS
Gaisano)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
1,646 sqm.	P 6,995,500
3,001 sqm.	P 25,508,500

SAM_TGM439 RSDL LOT
LA 450 sqm (Near Methodist
Church) PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P573,750

SAM_TGM440 RSD'L LOT
LA 3,000 sqm (New Life Ministryes
Chapel) PUROK ORANGE
VALLEY, Magugpo South,
Min. Bid Price: P6,375,000

SAM_TGM449 RSD'L LOT
LA 556 sqm. (meters away from
Dalisay Gante Rd.)
PUROK VIPATIL
Min. Bid Price:P378,080

SAM TGM450 RSD'L/COMM'L BLDG
LA 379 sqm FA 514 sqm
SOBRECAREY ST.
Min. Bid Price:P4,850,811

SAM_TGM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA 7, 456 sqm FA 106 sqm
(near YBC Store)
DOMINGO SUBD., Magugpo
Poblacion,
Min. Bid Price: P6,337,600

SAM_TGM456 AGRI LOT
LA 3, 827 sqm
(Near Nichols Homes Subd.)
Purok Buli, VISAYAN VILL.
Min. Bid Price: P1,301,180

SAM_TGM460 RSDL LOT
LA 477 sqm.(near DANECO Office)
Briz District, MAGUGPO EAST,
Min. Bid Price:P1,013,625

SAM_TGM463 RSD'L LOT
LA 300 sqm.(near Magsanoc Vill.)
PUROK ABACA, Brgy. Mankilam
Min. Bid Price:P382,500

SAM_TGM464 RSD'L LOT
LA 250 sqm.
(Near Phil. Benevolent Missionary)
SENAGOTE VILL., Magugpo East,
Min. Bid Price:P531,250

SAM_TGM470 COMM'L BLDG
LA 18, 830 sqm FA 2, 117 sqm
(near First Consolidated Bank)
PAGSABANGAN RD., Brgy.
Mankilam,
Min. Bid Price: P21,479,366

SAM_TGM475 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 400 sqm. FA. 315 sqm.
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P1,213,343

SAM_TGM477 HOUSE & LOT
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area		Min. Bid Price
750sqm	400sqm	P	1,593,750
1,066sqm	192sqm	P	2,265,250
1,408sqm	400sqm	P	2,987,750

SAM_TGM481 RSD'L LOT
VISAYAN VILLAGE
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area		Min. Bid Price
4,500 sqm	P	9,562,500
1,236 sqm.	P	2,626,500
1,512 sqm.	P	3,213,000
1,648sqm	P	3,502,000
2,338 sqm.	P	4,968,250
7,014sqm.	P	5,961,900

SAM_TGM482 AGRI LOT
LA 12, 580 sqm.
(near Clausio Inse,Sicat Cockpit
Arena) BRGY. CANOCOTAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,138,600

SAM_TGM484 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm (meters away from
Christ the King Chapel)
Suaybaguio Road,
BRGY. LA FORTUNA
Min. Bid Price:P409,567

SAM_TGM492 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 119 sqm.
Purok Malinawon,
MAGUGPO EAST
Min. Bid Price: P4,502,875

SAM_TGM493 AGRI LOT
LA. 62,900 sqm.
BRGY. CANOCOTAN (San Isidro)
(near Sicat Cockpit Arena)
Min. Bid Price:P21,386,000

SAM_TGM495 12 RSD'L LOTS
LA 15,610 sqm
Purok Cacao, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P6,634,250

SAM_TGM497 RSDL LOT W/
IMPROVEMENT
LA 24, 022 sqm FA 1, 062 sqm.
Tagum-Kapalong, Provincial Rd.,
BRGY. PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P20,418,700

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Illiteracy more costly than education

By Riza T. Olchondra

YOU THINK CYBER EDUCATION IS expensive? Try illiteracy, said Thailand's Distance Learning Foundation, which is positioned as a model for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Without giving the total expenditure used to build Thailand's nationwide satellite network for education, foundation chair Khwankeo Vajarodaya said in a recent interview in Bangkok that Thai companies pitched in a total of 50 million baht 12 years ago to serve as seed money for the foundation.

But the money was small compared to the benefits of the program, Vajarodaya told a Philippine delegation led by Department of Education director Lolita Andrada.

He said that before Thailand's "One Class, One Channel" program, children living in poor or calamity-hit areas were prone to abuse, human trade or drug addiction, becoming a cost to society in their adult years instead of being employable.

That changed in 1995, when the Distance Learning Foundation and the King's Wang Klaikangwon School started a project to broadcast live class lectures for 15 channels.

There is one for grades 1 to 12 and three other channels for vocational, university classes and teacher training.

The broadcasts are transmitted via satellite.

In its present form, the program also reaches overseas Thais to keep them rooted in their culture. At the web page www.dlf.ac.th, Internet users can view the live satellite broadcasts of the 15 channels or select on demand.

With this page, Thais living abroad can relive or study Thai culture under the satellite-enabled learning with five centers at Thai Temples in France, Switzerland, Los Angeles and the Royal Thai consulates in Chicago and New York.

The system in Thailand uses the Direct to Home or DTH technology, which is also available in the Philippines.

Vajarodaya said that, seeing similar education needs between Thailand and the Philippines, the Distance Learning Foundation is keen on donating a satellite receiver set to the Philippines' DepEd.

He said that hopefully, the gesture will kickstart bilateral cooperation on cyber education.

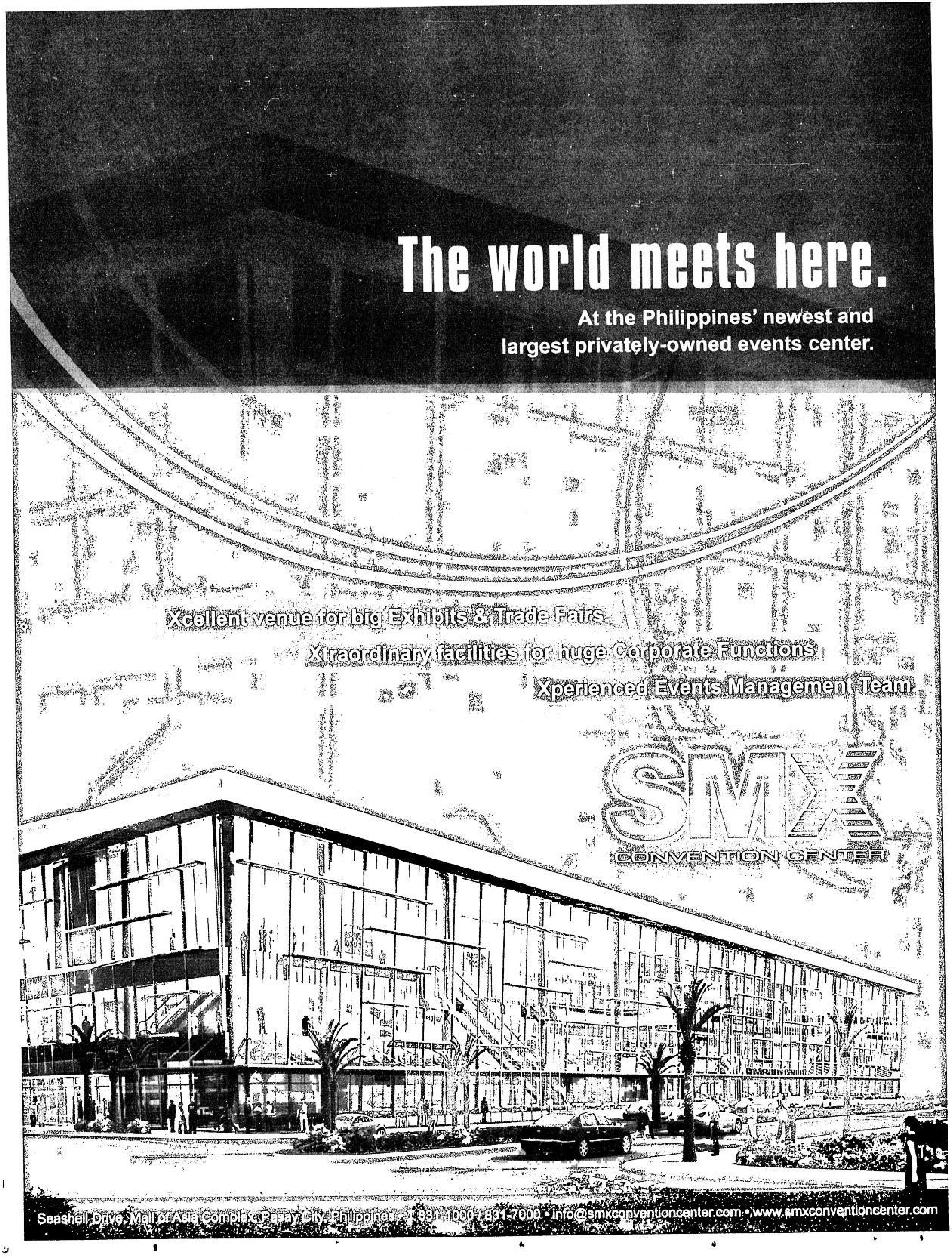
The satellite receiver set would enable the DepEd to capture the same live lectures broadcast to Thai schools for free under the "One Class, One Channel' project.

The DepEd can later make its own content and design its own education system.

Thai Ambassador Asha Dvitiyananda, who co-chaired the meeting with DepEd officials, expressed hope that the cooperation will later grow into an Asean-wide effort.

Dvitiyananda suggested that the Philippine government make donations for cyber education tax deductible, to make it more attractive for companies to pitch in.

"Something must be done fast for distance education, it is important to provide good learning to young people neat and far. It would be even more costly not to, and that is true for the whole Asean," the envoy concluded.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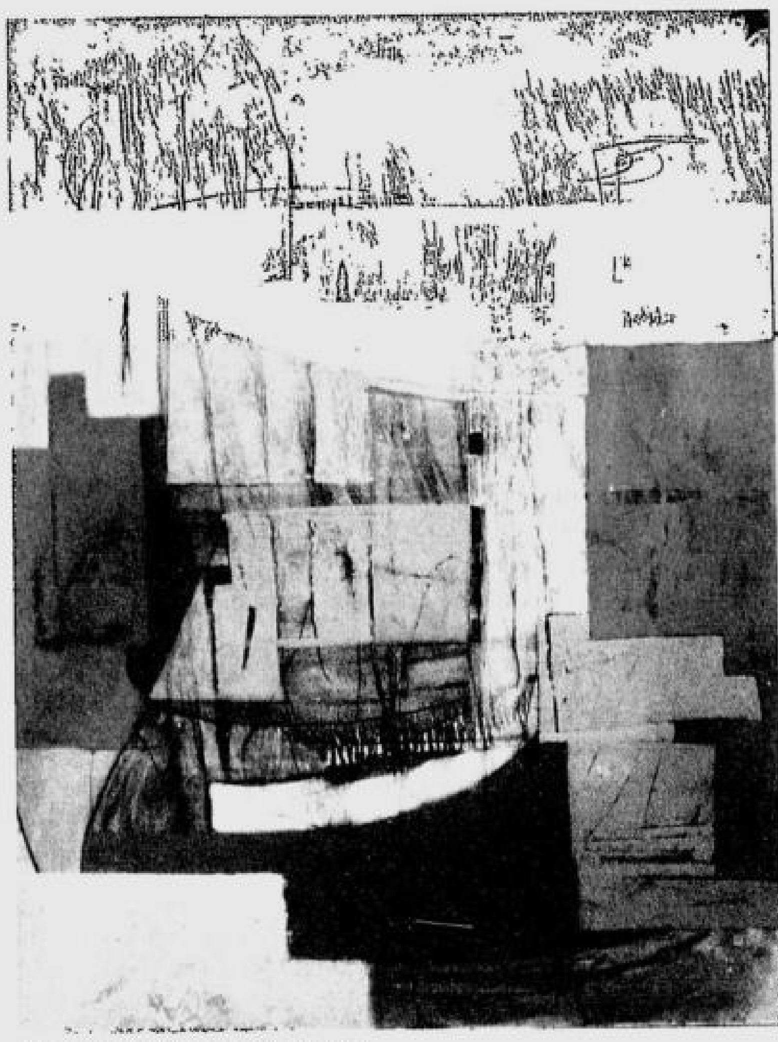

"ACID Rain Falls over the City"

Austria's urban 'Cosmos'

DEEPLY FELT EMOTIONS about a place tend to blur the details and features and saturate the shapes, lines and colors in one's mind. These sediments splatter on the paintings of Julio José Austria in his fourth one-man exhibition, "Concrete & Steel Cosmos," in Hiraya Gallery at 530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila, until Nov. 10.

In his paintings, Austria reckons that Time is an irreparable illusionist. Through the large windows of the buses, his childhood eyes follow with wonder

AUSTRIA'S/ C2

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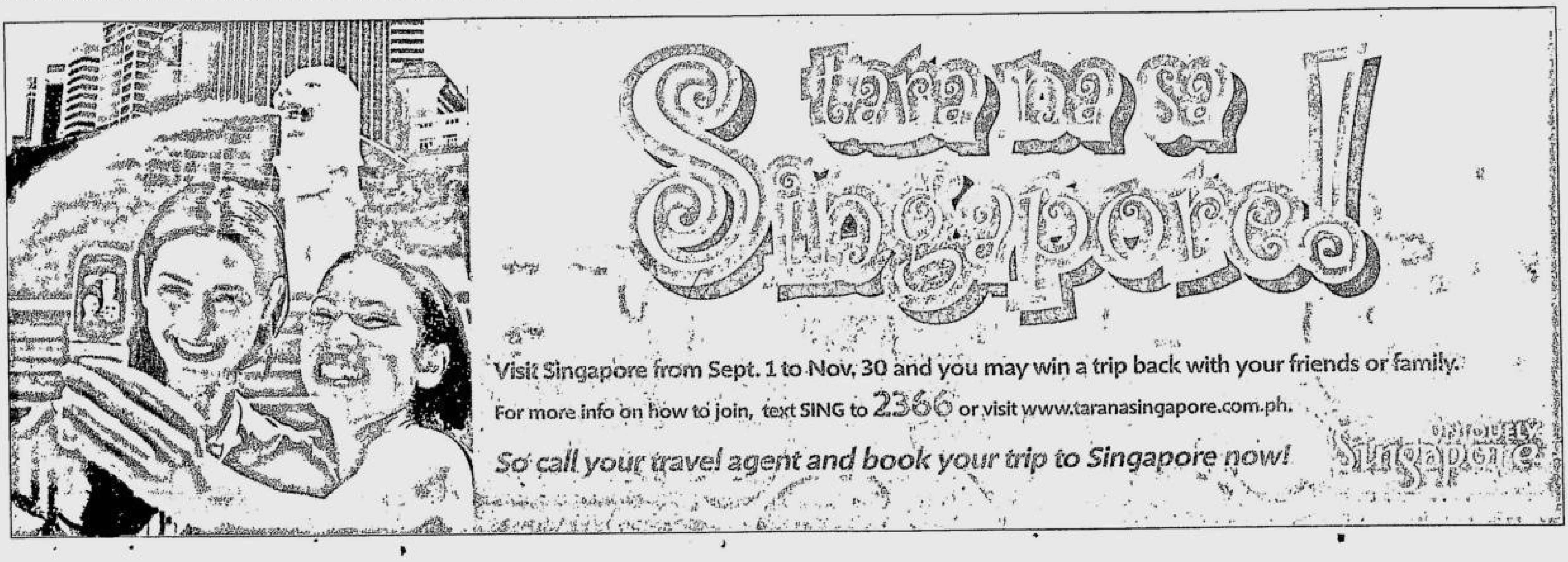

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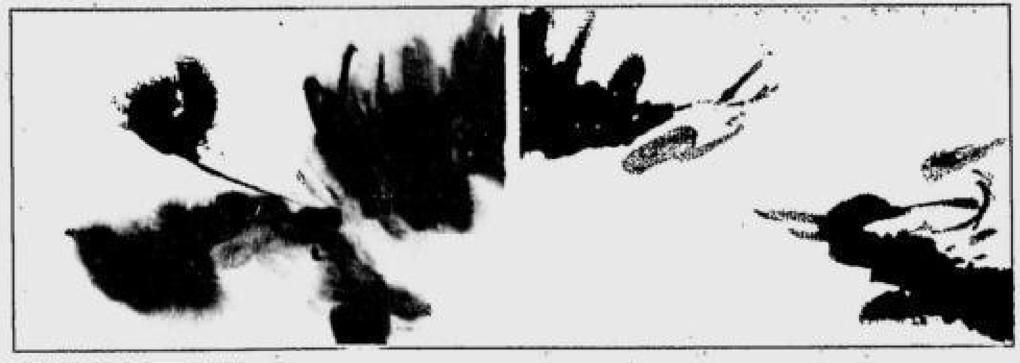


"WATER Dance" III

Lascano's *dancing waves*

By Cid Reyes, *Contributor*

IN LEONARDO DA VINCI'S "DELUGE" drawings, we see the hand of the Prime Mover in the great rolling waves of water that churn with magnificent force.

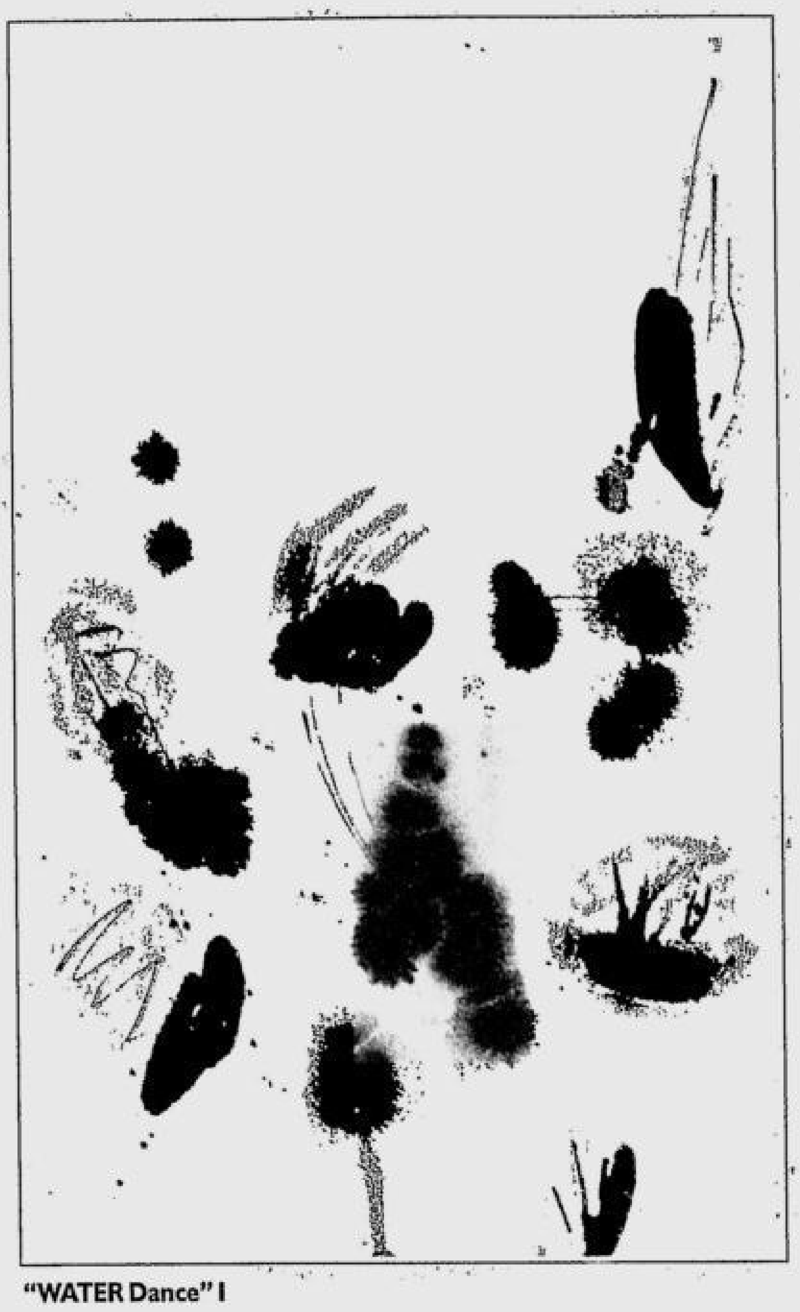
In Hokusai's famous print "Wave at Kanagawa," a mountain of water rises to vertiginous height and curls into clawing fingers eager to devour and drown the hapless fishermen.

Of Sotatsu's 6-panel folding screen, "Waves at Matsushima," a critic has written: "He created a composition charged with the churning action of waves, yet is solid and permanent in its design or the rocky crags around which water leaps and churns. He translated his sensitive awareness of natural phenomena into a decorative, abstract design. Spatial ambiguity in the sky and water areas suggests an interaction that the viewer is to feel rather than to read as a literal transcription of nature."

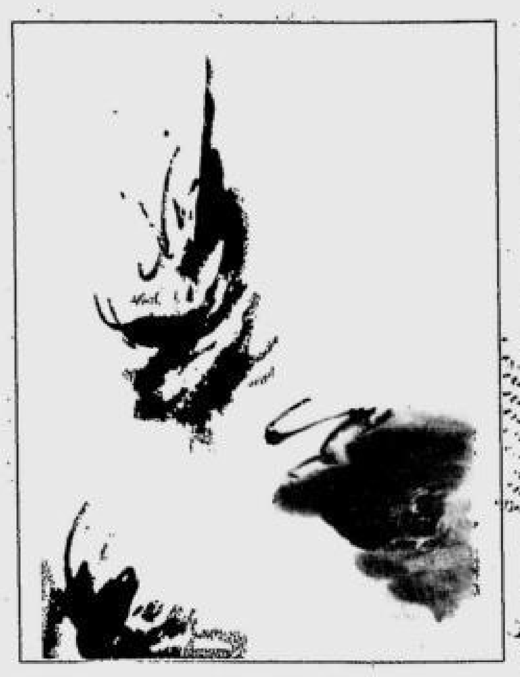
Surprisingly, in the Philippines, being an archipelago, and as such surrounded by an expanse of water, the water image has been the subject of only a few visual artists. In sculpture, Impy Pilapil was buoyed by an oceanic theme. Thus, in her hands, boulders of rocks and sheets of glass undulate to the rhythm and power of the seas.

In painting, Rico Lascano has devoted a sequence of solo exhibitions, all interrelated by the water image. In his quietly still canvases murmur the ripples of brooks, streams and rivers, through a web of lines and exhalation of open space envisioned on a meditative level.

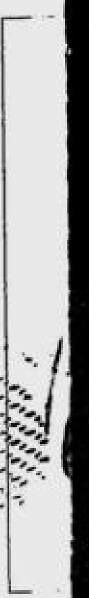
Indeed, his paintings are an immersion in the Zen aesthetics. Water, regarded by Oriental philosophers as "the blood of nature," courses through Lascano's art as a life-giving force. Past exhibitions—with evocative series titles such as "Pondering" and "Streams of Consciousness"—have been a continuing dialogue with this most refreshing—and threatening—element.



"WATER Dance" I



"WATER Dance" V



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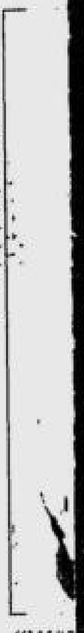

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New treatment

Where this current and latest series of Lascano's works diverges is in his new treatment and approach to the water image. Where once it was all stillness and placidity, now the waters are performative, roused to a state of exuberance and celebration. Thus, the so-called "Water Dance" paintings, referenced by a wildly choreographic energy.

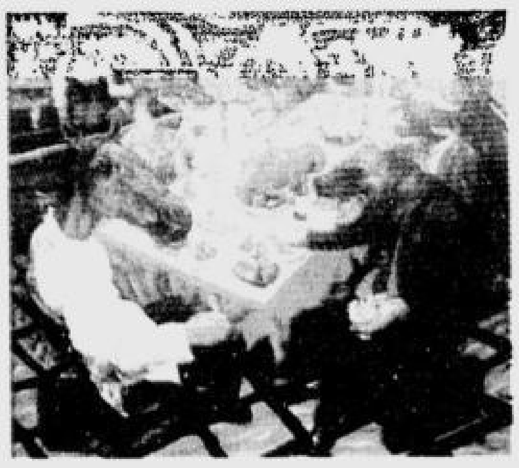
A change in sensation is immediate. The

Social realities as seen by three brothers

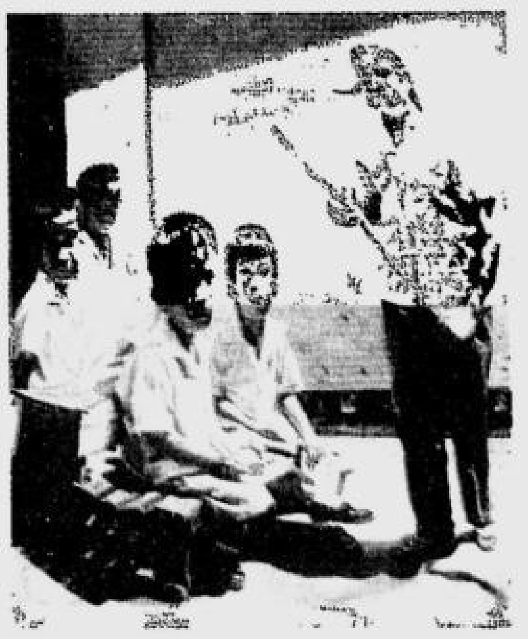
By Constantino C. Tejero

ANOTHER SET OF ARTISTIC siblings is making a name on the local art scene: Jerson, Julio and Jaypee Samson. (They come in threes, don't they?)

Like the Venturas, the De Guias and the Dalenas, the Samsons display a relatedness in their respective art, in either points of similarity or polarity. It is that phenomenon we've observed in a family of artists in which, due to proximity, their works either resemble one another because of assimilation or become diametrical as a result of deliberate resistance.



"PUTAJE," by Julio Samson



"DISIPLINA," by Jaypee Samson

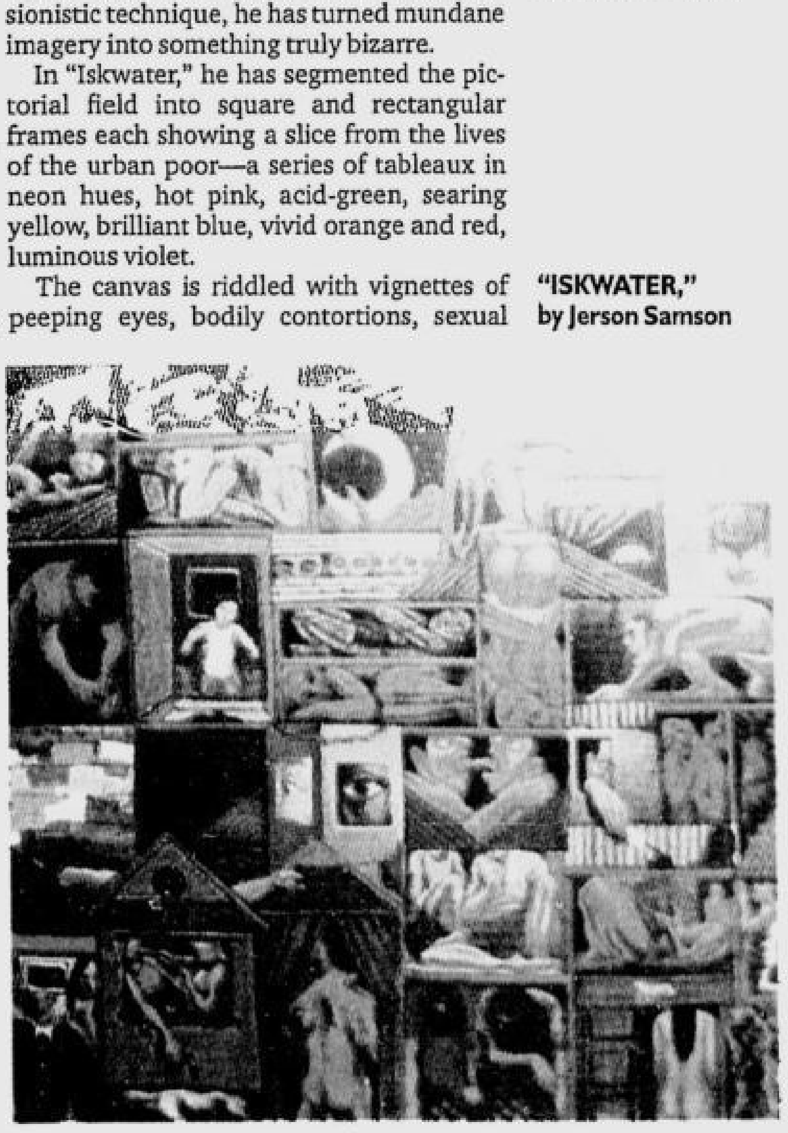
This is again apparent in the exhibit "The Samsons," pieces in oil on canvas, until Nov. 12 in Kaida Gallery, 2/F, GFO Bldg., 122 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City.

Apart from their common medium of oil on canvas, what further unifies the Samson brothers in this exhibit is their thematic concern, which is social realities, and they vary only in their expression.

Jerson, the eldest, says he is "an observer and storyteller of everyday realities," but by using an expressionistic technique, he has turned mundane imagery into something truly bizarre.

In "Iskwater," he has segmented the pictorial field into square and rectangular frames each showing a slice from the lives of the urban poor—a series of tableaux in neon hues, hot pink, acid-green, searing yellow, brilliant blue, vivid orange and red, luminous violet.

The canvas is riddled with vignettes of peeping eyes, bodily contortions, sexual congress (even on the rooftop), fighting, shouting, but also solitude (as in the toilet). The choppy technique enhances the frenetic sense of urban congestion, the claustrophobia of the world of the slum-dwellers.



"ISKWATER," by Jerson Samson

Julio chooses to critique societal ills and excesses, zeroing in on "the political, economic, military and religious hierarchies." In one piece, his surrealist tendency has gathered these personages in a dinner party.

"Putaje" is a formal scene compositionally related to "The Last Supper" but for the imagery of the dinner guests assuming heads of wild boar, pit bull, snake, donkey, ape, carabao, crocodile, bird of prey. The surreal vision is emphasized by the artist's manipulation of pictorial space, employing perspectival as well as formal distortion through askew angle, foreshortening, bold color tonality.

Of the siblings, Jaypee, the youngest, would seem to be the realist in style and technique. In his series, he depicts the woes and heroism of the public-school teacher.

Everyone knows the state of public education in the country. It is in this context that the artist quietly but effectively pays tribute to what he considers "the new heroes of this generation—teachers who strive to educate their students at all costs and by whatever means in spite of the crisis facing them."

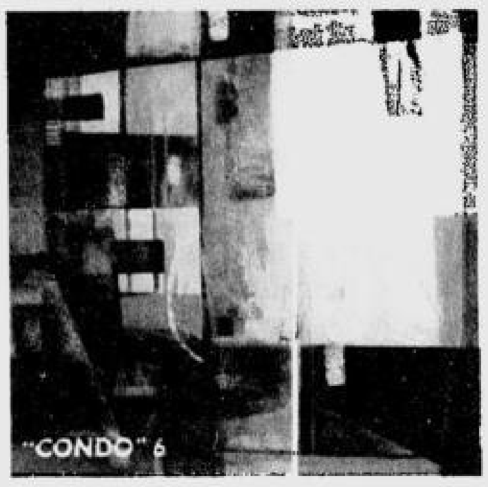
In "Disiplina," the mundane image of a teacher with a stick and his four pupils is underscored by rough texture, harsh chiaroscuro and near-monochrome. But the realism is somewhat subverted by a slight distortion that makes the image waver, the visual effect imparting more pathos to the children's faces and more sternness to the teacher's.

The Samson brothers got their Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from University of the Philippines. All three have received awards and citations from all national art competitions.

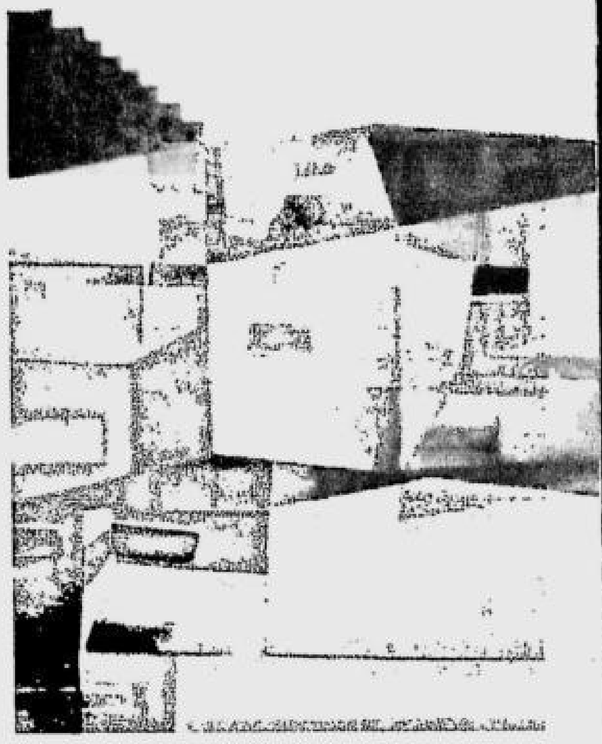
Jerson won the Jurors' Choice in the Art Association of the Philippines Annual Competition (Representational Category); was included on the Top 5 of the Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards; thrice finalist in the Shell National Students Art Competition; twice finalist in the Metrobank Foundation Young Painters contest; and a finalist in the Philip Morris.

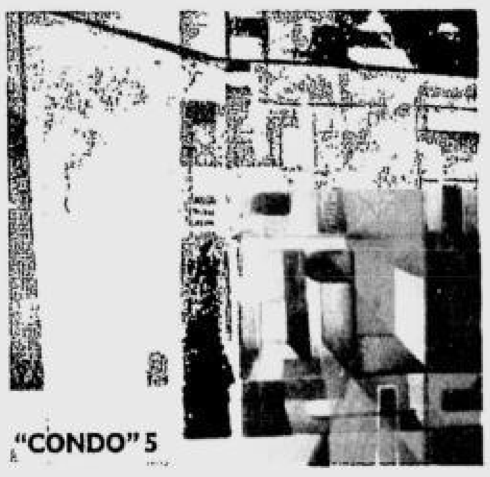
Julio, who's taking up his master's at UP, was a semifinalist in the Philip Morris, AAP, Metrobank Foundation (both in Sculpture and Painting Categories) and Shell contests.

Jaypee is a triple Grand Prize winner of the Metrobank, GSIS and PLDT art competitions.



"CONDO" 6





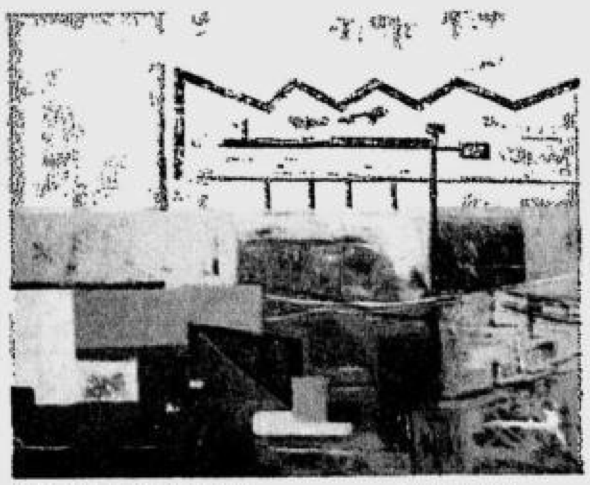
"CONDO" 5

Bagtas at Renaiss

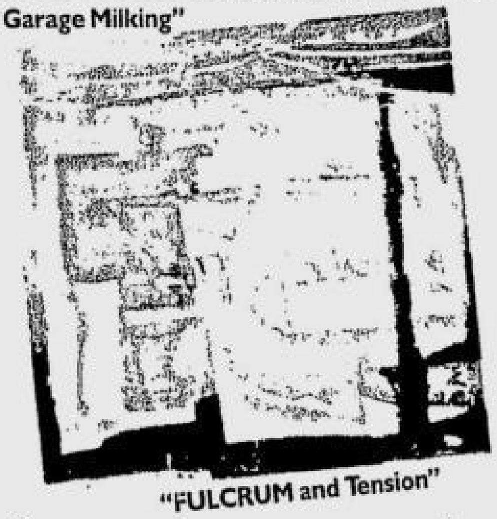
"ART OF ARIS BAGTAS" opens on Oct. 26, 6 p.m., in Gallery, Artwalk, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluy 6373101 or 0918-4428611.

Austria's urban . . .

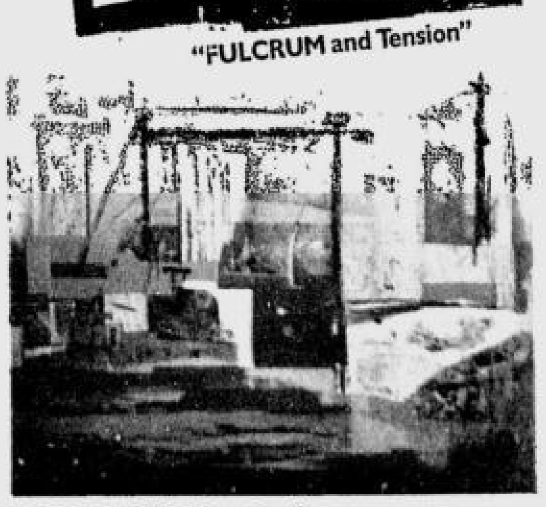
From page C1



"AIR Garage Milking"



"FULCRUM and Tension"



"CONSTRUCTION on Site"

the large electric and telephone cables running from his home in Aguinaldo Highway in Cavite and endlessly into the heart of Manila, where his parents work.

As an adolescent, he learned to watch the spots where the traffic would wind and the buses would lurch to a sudden stop. When he entered college at University of Sto. Tomas, the spool inside his brains began to record his feelings toward the sights of patches of *nipa* shacks along the road, the thundering sound of jet planes, and the alternating masses and heights of hotels and commercial buildings on the seaside route to and from España, Manila.

Today the sights and sounds of the streets of Metro Manila coil around in his mind like a dirge over modern urban living.

Gifted with a sensibility with strong interest in humanities—painting, architecture, art design, photography, history, geography, music—Austria paints visual soliloquy on the march of progress in the city and the fate of its people: the cacophony from videoke bars; the squalor in dimly lit streets; the skyline marred by ongoing or abandoned construction projects; the heavy downpour flooding the city; the overhanging smog; the *sari-sari* stores being replaced by giant malls and banks.

However, Austria's visual style blunts the chops of his themes and subjects. He shades them with slides of neutral hues, interrupted sometimes by a drench of red and yellow. Their asymmetrical locations within the frame coheres into images of breathing and bulging spaces and masses, a discovery helped no less by the linear motion of the electric posts and the horizons of cable-wire loops.

Hiraya Gallery is at 530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila. Call 5233331. Visit www.hiraya.com.

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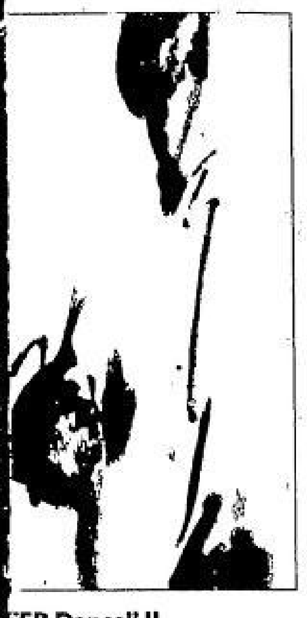
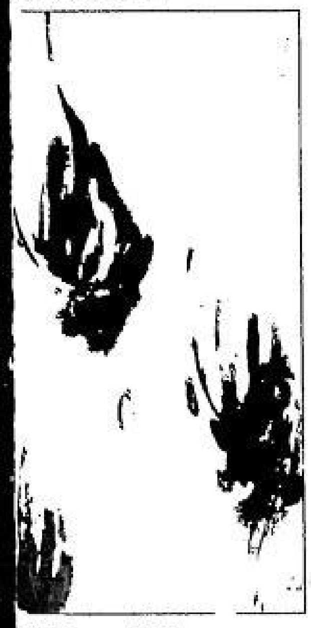


TER Dance" II



TER Dance" VI

water surface has been disrupted, now erupting into broken pools of aqueous grayish colors, still runny and bleeding, but blossoming into unexpected floral formations. Brushstrokes are swished to and fro, squeezing droplets from restless bristles. Sponges mop up errant flows of water, controlling the pace of energy.

Interestingly, some of the "Water Dance" paintings look like diagrammatic dance steps, with dancers' mobile feet anchored in space.

Of course, Lascano's painterly gestures are an unapologetic nod to Abstract Expressionism, benefiting from the idiom's impulsive flashes of pigment and forms dredged both from the artist's subconscious and neuromotor system.

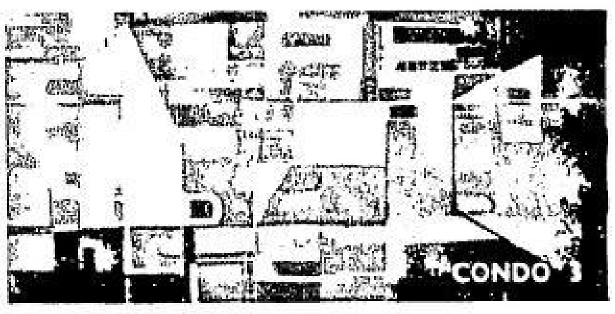
From a Walden Pond stillness, the artist leads the viewer to a swirling flourish of pure abstraction. From a classical serenity and refinement, the viewer steps into a jazzy gyration of free-wheeling shapes. From a limpid quietude, the painting breaks into celebratory song, like a voice trailing the whiplash of a conductor's baton.

While these recent paintings may come as a surprise to Lascano's collectors who have admired his monastically reflective works, it is well to note that change and continuity now mark an emerging new phase in his maturing art. Relax. The first step is to luxuriate in the knowledge of an artist's freedom: the liberty to take one's art wherever the spirit moves him.

Lascano's "Water Dance" paintings are buoyant, lilting and full of swing-a-dance to the music of the waters.

The exhibit will run Nov. 6-18 in The Crucible Gallery, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Telefax 6356061.

"CONDO" 9



"CONDO" 4

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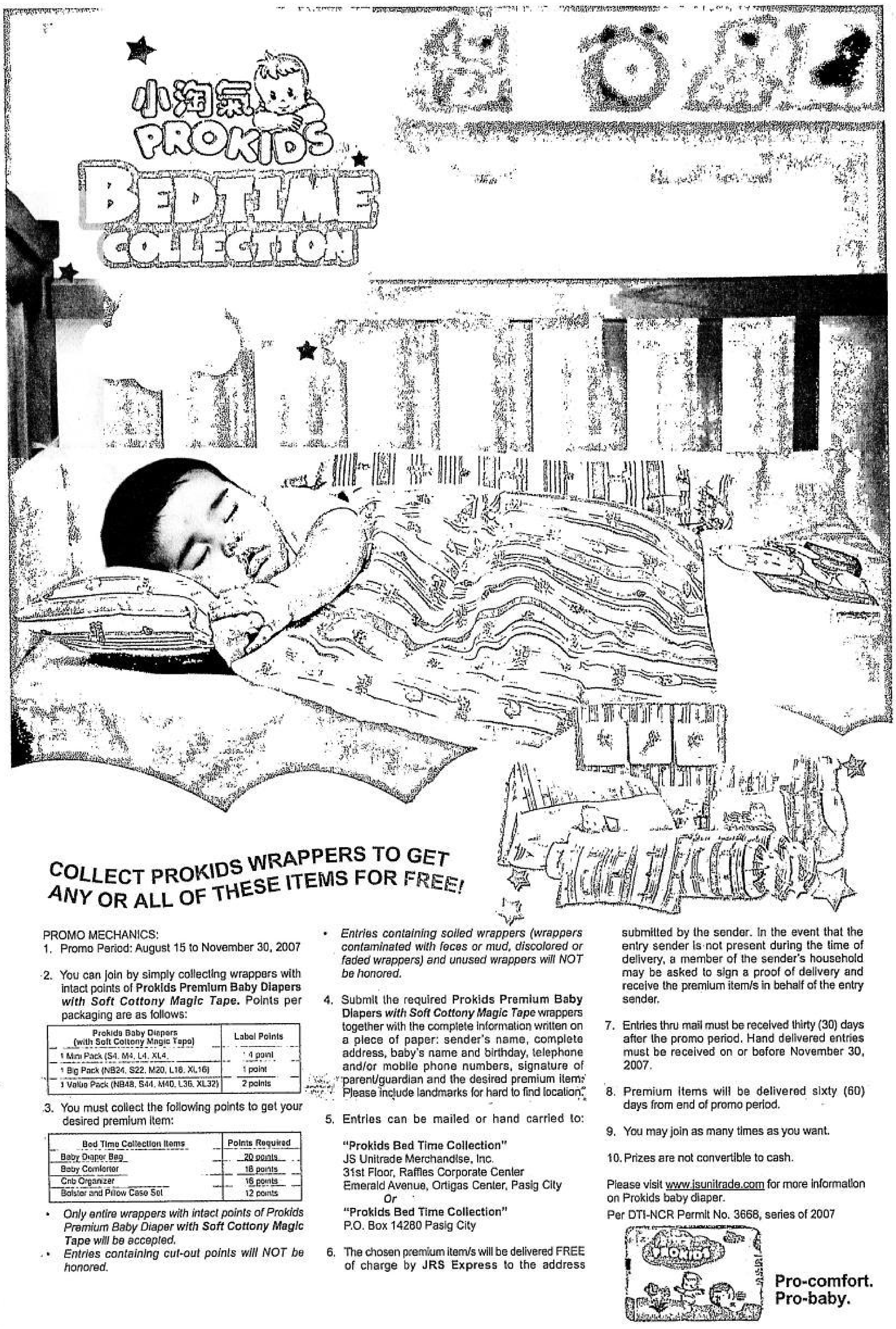

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CCP PRESIDENT Nes Jardin, Tessie Luz, Paulino Que, a major collector of Onib Olmedo paintings, and Hetty Que

MANOLO Evalle, Olmedo's erstwhile architectural partner, flew in all the way from the United States to pay tribute to his friend. He is flanked by Dr. Diwata Quinones and Dr. Francesca Joanna Olmedo, Olmedo's daughter.

TV PERSONALITY Korina Sanchez, an Onib Olmedo collector, and Emily Abrera, chair of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Looking on are Bettina Olmedo, the artist's widow; writer Gilda Cordero Fernando; Francesca Joanna Arias and Gisella Araneta, the artist's children.

Tributes to Onib Olmedo

THREE MAJOR ART GALLERIES ARE PAYING tribute to Onib Olmedo, a major Filipino expressionist of the 20th century, with simultaneous exhibits: the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which is showing the retrospective show, "Dimensions of Depth"; Metropolitan Museum of Art, which is showing "My Friend, Onib Olmedo"; and Gallery Nine at Megamall, which is exhibiting "Onib's Women."

The CCP show features representative samples of Onib Olmedo's paintings spanning his entire career from his first exhibit in 1971 until the time he died in 1996, including inkwash and oil on canvas paintings consisting of portraits and still-lifes, depictions of jeepneys and tricycles denoting mobility, the pastel paintings exhibited in the landmark show in Austria known as "The Vienna Collection," and the two inkwash paintings which won awards at the international competition in Cagnes Sur Mer, France, in 1992.

The Metropolitan Museum exhibit focuses on the rare collection of Silvana Diaz, proprietress of Galeria Duemila, while the Gallery Nine show highlights Olmedo's skill in drawing the human figure with his pastel sketches of nudes.

Onib Olmedo is the most critically acclaimed figurative expressionist artist of his generation. His paintings are soul portraits that explore the inner torments, the spiritual alienation and psychological devastation of modern man. They exert an implosive, cathartic impact on the viewer, and at the same time, have an uplifting quality as they celebrate the triumph of the human spirit in the face of pain and anguish.

One of the most awarded Filipino artists of the 20th century, Olmedo won gold medals from the Art Association of the Philippines and the Mobil Oil awards. He also won two awards at the international competition in Cagnes Sur Mer, France, the very first Filipino to be accorded such a distinction. An artist who was way ahead of his time, Onib Olmedo indisputably played a major role in the history of Philippine art. During his lifetime, he succeeded in raising the art consciousness of Filipinos to a level that went beyond the appreciation of art in terms of its superficial and ornamental dimensions.

Olmedo's paintings have served to expand the Filipino's artistic sense to go beyond the visual appeal of genre art and encompass the deeper meanings of paintings as social commentary and psychological catalyst. His influence is felt up to this day, with his style inspiring a whole new generation of young artists in the 21st century who are self-confessed disciples of the late master.

ARTISTS Ramon Diaz and Phyllis Zaballero

REV and Gisella Marie Araneta

ALLAN Cosio, Olmedo's best friend, sings Olmedo's favorite Filipino song, "Bituing Marikit."

RICKY Gutierrez, proprietor of Chateau 1771 which was Onib Olmedo's favorite hang-out, is introduced to Korina Sanchez by Bettina Olmedo.

SILVANA Diaz of Galeria Duemila and National Artist Bencab

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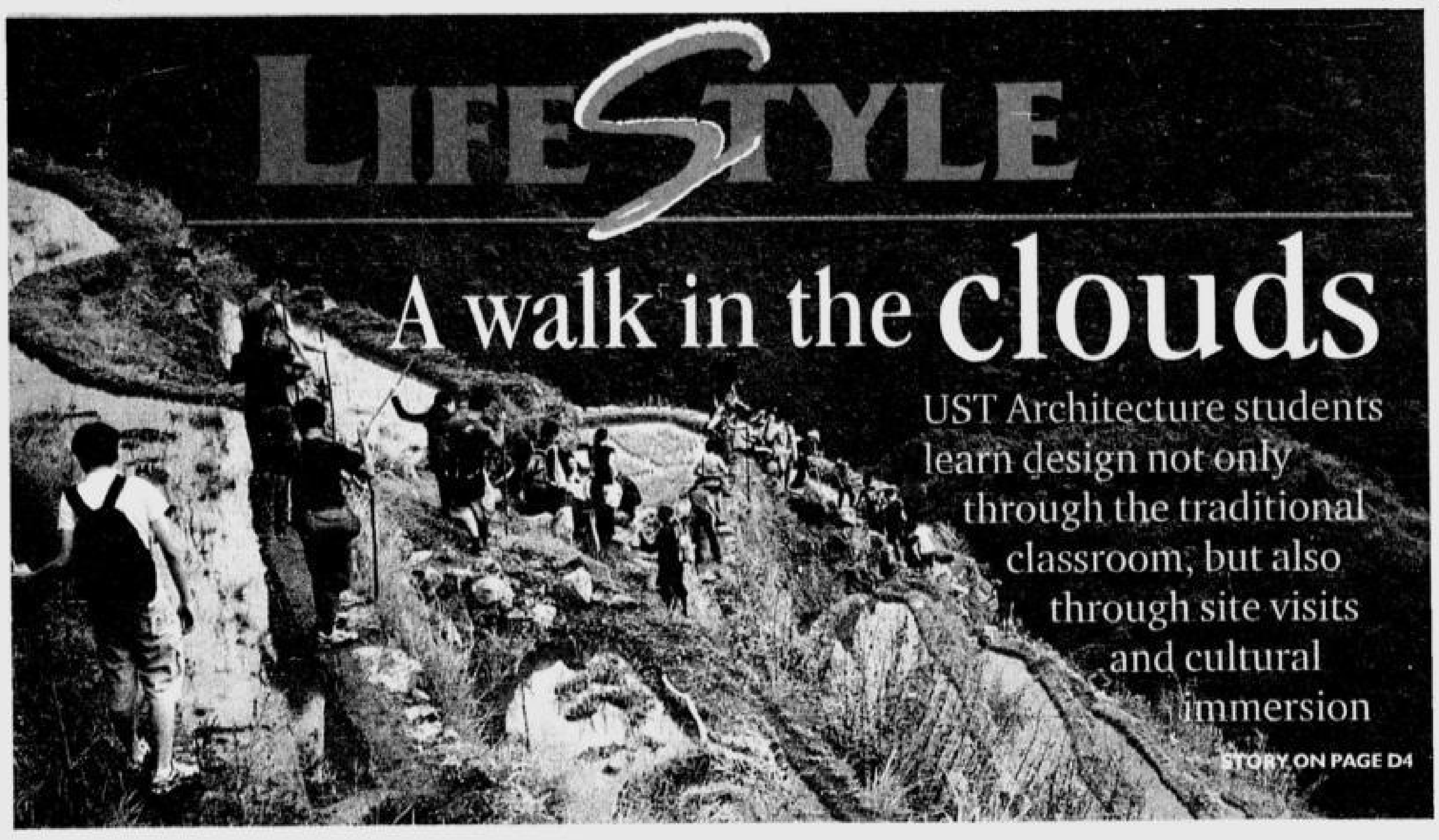

LIFESTYLE

A walk in the clouds

UST Architecture students learn design not only through the traditional classroom, but also through site visits and cultural immersion

STORY ON PAGE D4

Did you know?

Home microwave ovens were introduced in the 50's.

Introduced in 1951. Like the micro, Cream Corn Starch has been in kitchens ever since.

Also available: Cream ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
Cream
PURE CORNSTARCH

Alex Cabagnot's Calorie Management

Calories? What Calories?

You can neither smell nor taste them, yet managing and understanding them can greatly improve your health, hence, your life. A calorie is a standard unit to measure energy, commonly used in food. Everyday, we burn these calories depending on the amount of physical activity we engage in.

Good Health, Good Life

That is why in every activity that we apply ourselves in, the Coca-Cola Company strives to give back through its myriad of products, things to make life happy; products which make you get the most out of experiences and live life to the fullest. The Coca-Cola Company believes that balancing our calorie consumption and the amount of physical activity that we engage in is essential to having a happy, balanced life.

Basketball player Alex Cabagnot shares the same belief, saying that "good health depends on our ability to take care of our body through a balanced diet and a daily dosage of physical activities." He believes that in maintaining balance, you end up feeling better about yourself. He also goes on to say, "Being active and having a balanced diet make you feel less tired. They give you more of the energy you need to enjoy whatever life gives you."

Manage Your Calories

Learn how to manage your calories. Make full use of them and enjoy life. Engage in a sport, enroll in a gym, and continue to find ways for you to remain physically active. This way, you get to happily refresh your body and soul with each and every fizzle of your most loved softdrink from the Coca-Cola Company.

The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga

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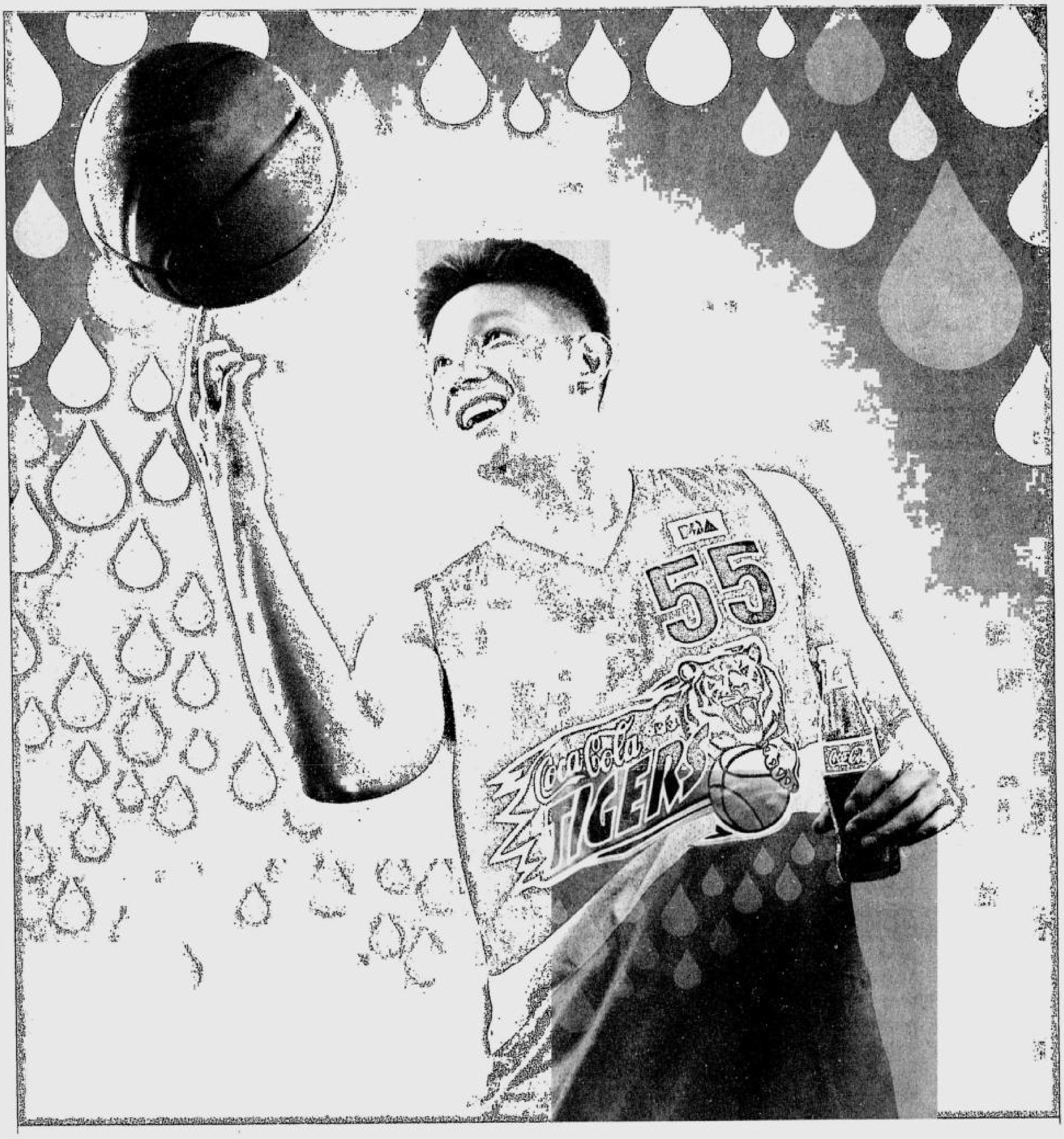
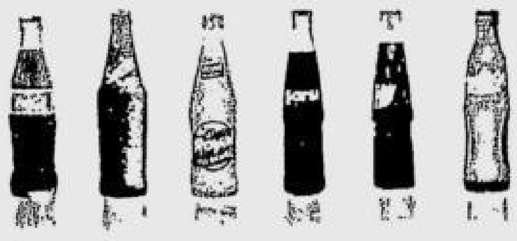


"A BALANCED LIFE IS ALL ABOUT GIVE AND TAKE.

When I do a lot of physical activity
like playing basketball and coaching kids,
I burn the calories I take in.
So I can have the drinks that make me happy!"

Alex Cabagnot
Basketball Player and Coach

A balanced life is a Sparkling Life.



The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga

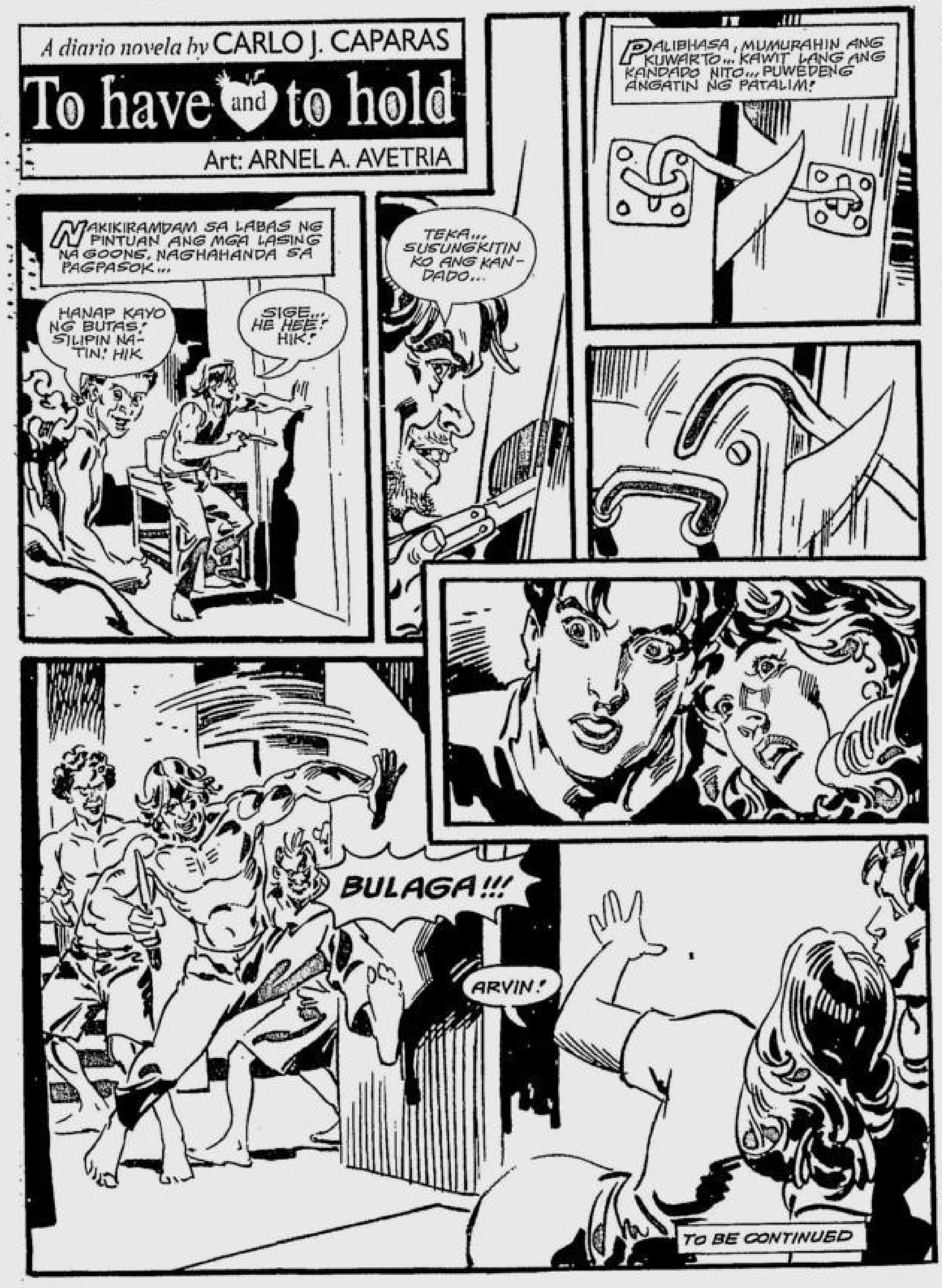
www.bawatpatakmahalaga.com.ph

Cola Company © 2007

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

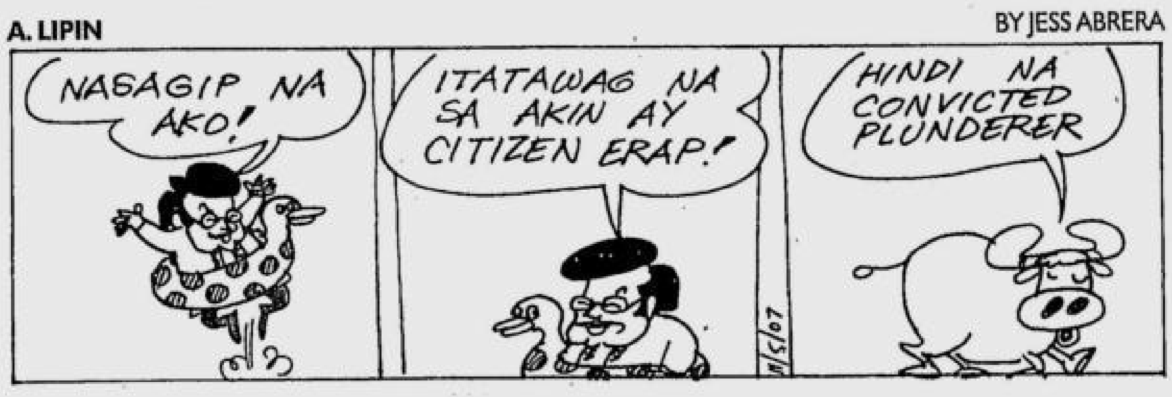
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


PALIBHASA, MUMURAHIN ANG KUWARTO... KAWIT LANG ANG KANDADO NITO... PUWEDENG ANGATIN NG PATALIM!
NAKIKIRAMDAM SA LABAS NG PINTUAN ANG MGA LASING NA GOONS, NAGHAHANDA SA PAGPASOK...
HANAP KAYO NG BUTAS! SILIPIN NATIN! HIK
SIGE... HE HEE! HIK!
TEKA... SUSUNGKITIN KO ANG KANDADO...
BULAGA!!!
ARVIN!
TO BE CONTINUED

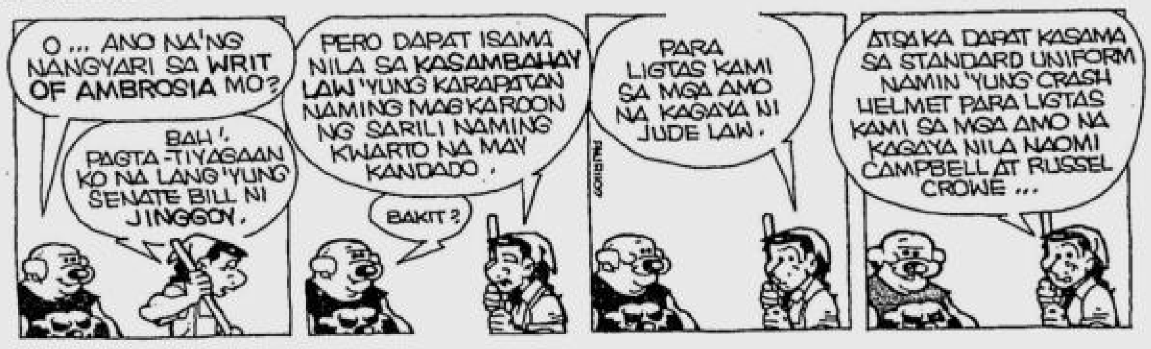
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NASAGIP NA AKO!
ITATAWAG NA SA AKIN AY CITIZEN ERAP!
HINDI NA CONVICTED PLUNDERER
11/5/07

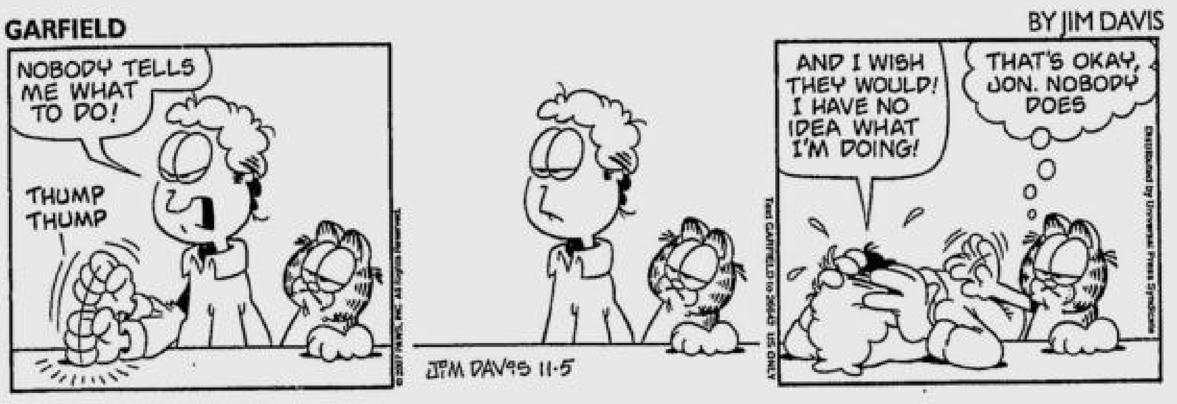
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... ANO NA'NG NANGYARI SA WRIT OF AMBROSIA MO?
BAH! PAGTA-TIYAGAAN KO NA LANG 'YUNG SENATE BILL NI JINGGOY.
PERO DAPAT ISAMA NILA SA KASAMBAHAY LAW 'YUNG KARAPATAN NAMING MAGKAROON NG SARILI NAMING KWARTO NA MAY KANDADO.
BAKIT?
PARA LIGTAS KAMI SA MGA AMO NA KAGAYA NI JUDE LAW.
ATSAKA DAPAT KASAMA SA STANDARD UNIFORM NAMIN 'YUNG CRASH HELMET PARA LIGTAS KAMI SA MGA AMO NA KAGAYA NILA NAOMI CAMPBELL AT RUSSEL CROWE...

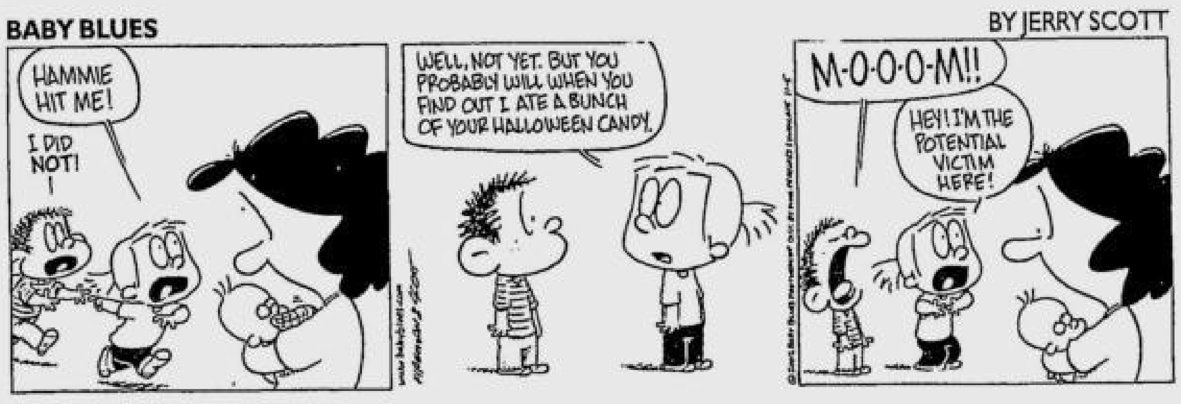
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO!
THUMP THUMP
AND I WISH THEY WOULD! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING!
THAT'S OKAY, JON. NOBODY DOES
JIM DAVIS 11-5

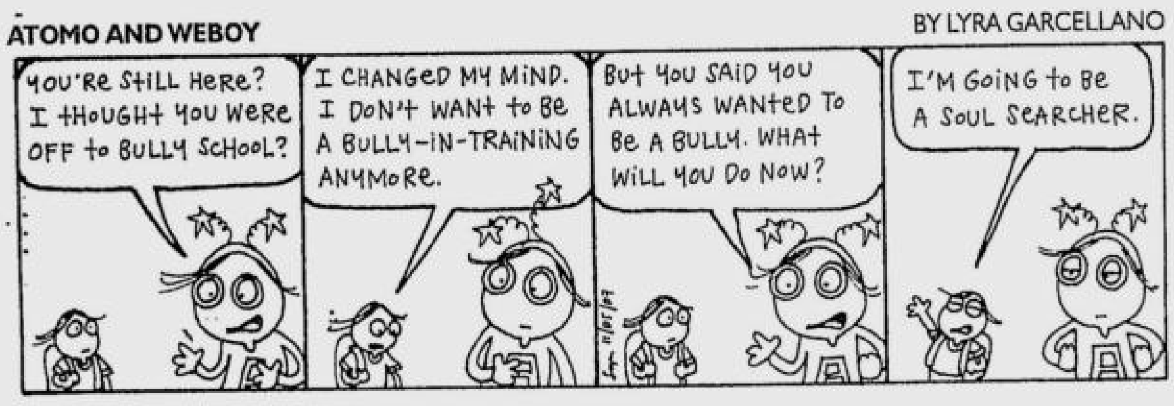
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE HIT ME!
I DID NOT!
WELL, NOT YET. BUT YOU PROBABLY WILL WHEN YOU FIND OUT I ATE A BUNCH OF YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY.
M-O-O-O-M!!
HEY! I'M THE POTENTIAL VICTIM HERE!

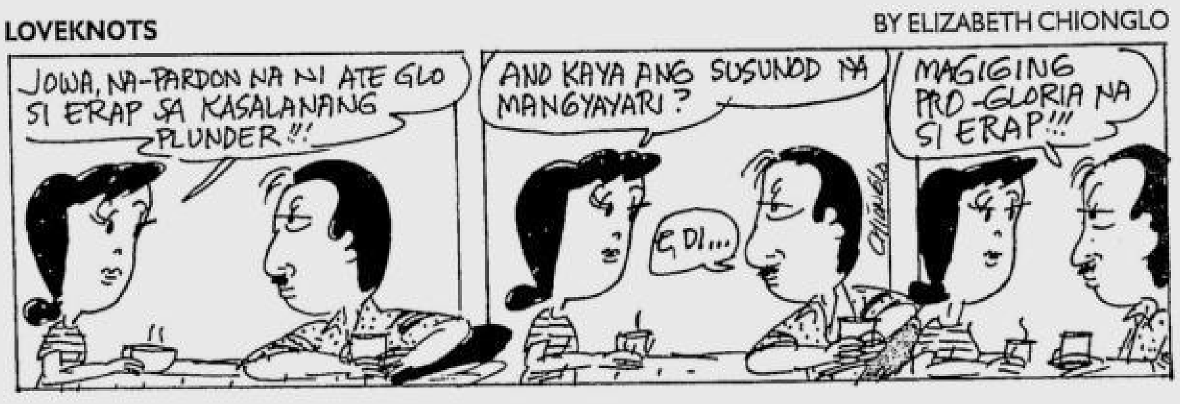
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'RE STILL HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF TO BULLY SCHOOL?
I CHANGED MY MIND. I DON'T WANT TO BE A BULLY-IN-TRAINING ANYMORE.
BUT YOU SAID YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A BULLY. WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
I'M GOING TO BE A SOUL SEARCHER.

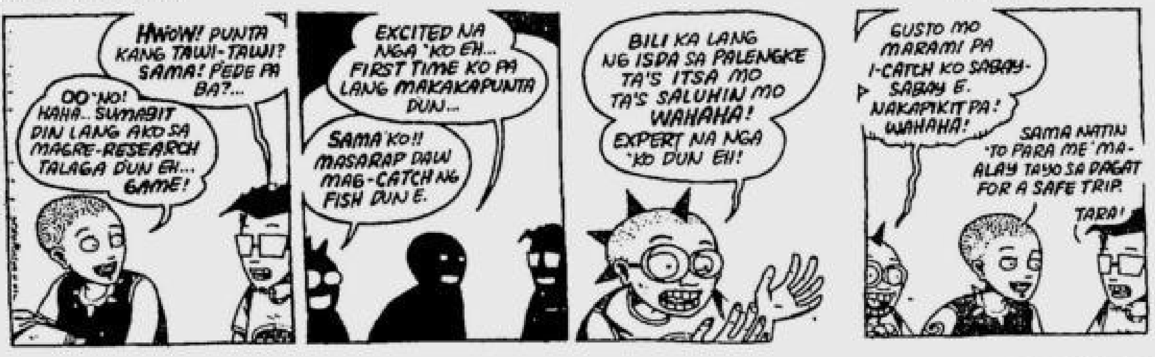
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, NA-PARDON NA NI ATE GLO SI ERAP SA KASALANANG PLUNDER!!!
AND KAYA ANG SUSUNOD NA MANGYAYARI?
E, DI...
MAGIGING PRO-GLORIA NA SI ERAP!!!
CHIONGLO

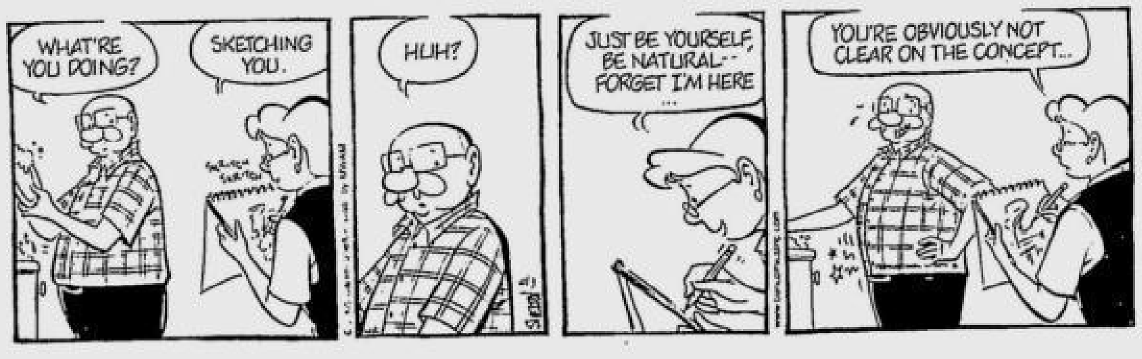
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW! PUNTA KANG TAWI-TAWI? SAMA! PEDE PA BA?...
OO 'NO! HAHA... SUMABIT DIN LANG AKO SA MAGRE-RESEARCH TALAGA DUN EH... GAME!
EXCITED NA NGA 'KO EH... FIRST TIME KO PA LANG MAKAKAPUNTA DUN...
SAMA 'KO!! MASARAP DAW MAG-CATCH NG FISH DUN E.
BILI KA LANG NG ISDA SA PALENGKE TA'S ITSA MO TA'S SALUHIN MO WAHAHA! EXPERT NA NGA 'KO DUN EH!
GUSTO MO MARAMI PA I-CATCH KO SABAY-SABAY E. NAKAPIKIT PA! WAHAHA!
SAMA NATIN 'TO PARA ME' MA-ALAY TAYO SA DAGAT FOR A SAFE TRIP.
TARA!

BEN

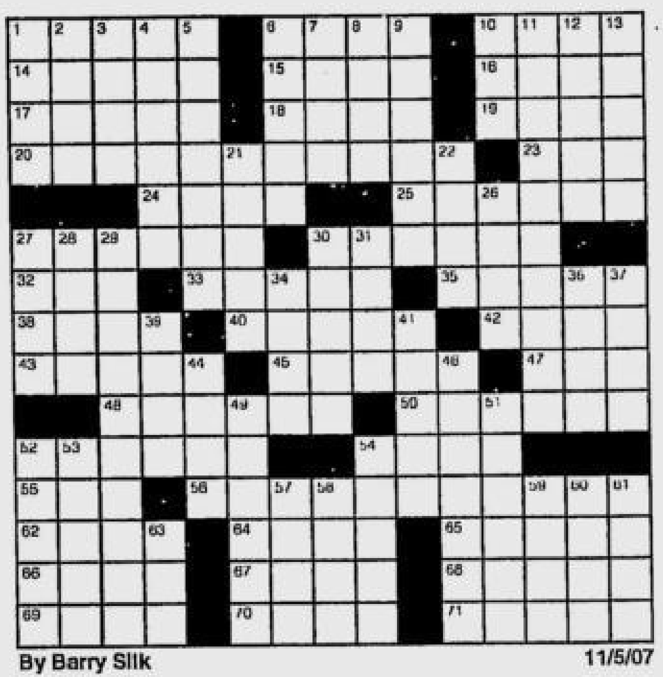
BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
SKETCHING YOU.
HUH?
JUST BE YOURSELF, BE NATURAL-- FORGET I'M HERE
...
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT CLEAR ON THE CONCEPT...

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Subject for discussion
6 Passing fancies
10 Wound sign
14 Essential acid
15 Downfall
16 This can't be!
17 Butterball
18 "Dies __"
19 Spreadsheet figures
20 Pioneer
23 Lisa Simpson, to Bart
24 Kind of tale or order
25 Decide against
27 Synchronous
30 Long Island county
32 King in France
33 Wire message
35 State-of-the-art home units
38 "Bus Stop" playwright
40 Word before 20A, 56A, 11D and 29D
42 Zeno of __
43 Look after
45 Paid parker
47 French water
48 Unmask
50 Former Scottish county
52 Forgo
54 Entreaty
55 Volcanic fallout
56 Certain mutual fund
62 Memphis record label
64 Tenn. neighbor
65 Garlic section
66 In this place
67 Maneuverable, at sea
68 Metric unit
69 Large boats
70 Tailless cat
71 Low-budget prefix

DOWN
1 Roosevelt's successor
2 Poet Khayyam
3 Pocket bread
4 As originally positioned
5 Radiator additive
6 Ruffle
7 Mystique
8 Actress Cameron
9 Dirty looks
10 Turf piece
11 Phillies All-Star infielder
12 Caper
13 Swelter
21 Censor's insert
22 Hebrew letter
26 Green stone
27 Garden bloom
28 Nary a one
29 Ocean predator
30 Neighbor of Tibet
31 Skater's leap
34 Molten flow
36 Calf meat
37 Writer Bellow
39 French seasons
41 Domain
44 Nero's egg
46 Cloying speech
49 Word derived from a name
51 Pungent bulb
52 Former Turkish title
53 Fall bloom
54 Cookware brand
57 Final Four org.
58 Deserve
59 Japanese zither
60 Balanced
61 Choreographer Saarinen
63 Marks, as a ballot


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

11/5/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

T	I	M	B	U	K	T	U		G	D	A	N	S	K
A	V	I	A	T	I	O	N		R	E	P	E	A	L
C	O	L	L	E	E	N	S		A	N	T	O	N	Y
O	R	A	L		L	I	T	A	N	Y		L	D	S
S	Y	N	O	D		C	R	E	D	O		O	R	T
			O	A	R		A	G	O	N		G	A	R
A	M	A	N	D	A		P	I	P	E		I	D	O
P	O	D		O	D	A		S	E	S		E	E	N
I	N	A		O	I	L	S		R	E	E	S	E	S
A	A	R		R	O	T	C		A	L	E			
R	R	S		O	C	E	A	N		F	R	E	D	S
I	C	H		N	A	R	R	O	W		I	L	E	A
S	H	E	A	R	S		C	O	A	L	E	S	C	E
T	I	N	P	O	T		E	N	V	I	S	I	O	N
S	C	I	O	N	S		R	E	E	N	T	E	R	S

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11/5/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have deep feelings and inner powers. Although outwardly calm, you are very intense. You have strong people skills and are an excellent networker. You like intellectual debates. In your late teens, you become more optimistic about life. Your year ahead will focus strongly on partnerships, both the beginning of things and the end.

Birthdate of: Bryan Adams, singer/photographer; Sam Shepard, playwright/actor; Tatum O'Neal, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): "It was Monday. It was Monday all day." Life feels like that for you, especially at work. Co-workers are touchy. This means you have to be patient

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Romance can go south today. Be patient with romantic partners and also with children. Don't worry if plans for vacations are dubious. Hang in there.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Power struggles with partners about domestic matters are likely today. However, you can use the same energy to clean up clutter at home and make things look better.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have wonderful ideas about how to make improvements. Unfortunately, others might not agree with you. They might not even listen. (There are none so deaf as those who are wearing headphones.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might feel a bit obsessed about trying to buy something today or, conversely, trying to earn money in a certain way. You just can't shake your ideas because you're convinced you're right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your approach to anything today is a bit obsessive-compulsive. You're like a dog with a bone, and you can't let go. Plus, you want to have your own way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're determined to get to the bottom of something. You might even think that someone is keeping a secret from you. If so, you'll find out what it is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Friends and groups might be a bit pushy today. (You're not impressed.) However, be careful, because you might be the one who is being pushy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't disagree with bosses, parents or authority figures today. You will only arouse more opposition to you. It's probably best if you sit this one out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Avoid political and religious arguments today. You're convinced you're right, but so is the other party. No matter how loud you shout, you'll just be talking to the hand

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Others aren't willing to share today. In fact, you're not willing to share much either. People are too quick to draw a line in the sand. (Everyone is a bit rigid today.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient with partners and close friends. If you don't, you might have an argument. Who wants this? You don't. Therefore, cool your jets.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		2	8		6	5		
9	6		4		7		3	1
	3						2	
		3	5		1	7		
		7		4		9		
		6	7		2	1		
	4						7	
7	5		2		4		8	6
		8	9		3	4		

Difficulty Level ★

11/05

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	3	1	2	5	7	6	4	8
8	5	2	4	1	6	9	7	3
6	7	4	3	9	8	1	2	5
5	1	3	7	6	9	2	8	4
7	8	6	5	4	2	3	9	1
2	4	9	8	3	1	7	5	6
3	9	8	1	2	5	4	6	7
4	6	7	9	8	3	5	1	2
1	2	5	6	7	4	8	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Arts high school marks 30th year

FOR BALLERINA SOFIA ZOBEL, other artists and art administrators in the country's close-knit arts circles, and sundry art aficionados, all roads led to Mt. Makiling last weekend.

The 30th anniversary of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna, was highlighted by a two-hour performing arts extravaganza at the Tanghalang Mariang Makiling last Friday evening, followed by a bonfire celebrating the grand alumni homecoming.

Titled "Hiyas," the show featured 130 dancers from acclaimed dance companies—Ballet Philippines; Douglas Nierras's Powerdance; Kahayag Dance Troupe from Silliman University in Dumaguete City; Kaloob Philippine Music and Dance Ministry; Neonescas; Sanlahi Pangkat Mananayaw; and the PHSA's resident folk dance company, the Sanghiyas Pangkat Mananayaw, which is also celebrating its 15th year.

Former Sanghiyas members now with the Benildanze and Footworks (College of St. Benilde) and at the University of the Philippines in Diliman participated in the anniversary production.

"We're 30 and getting stronger," beamed Reynaldo O. Wong, deputy director of PHSA.

Founded by former First Lady Imelda Marcos in 1977, the PHSA strives "to develop artistically gifted and talented students by implementing a special secondary education curriculum and support programs committed to the conservation and promotion of the Filipino artistic and cultural traditions."

Housed in a sprawling campus designed by National Artist for Architecture, Leandro Locsin, the school exudes the laid-back atmosphere of a mountain resort.

But laid-back the students—some 150 every school year—decidedly are not.

Selected through annual auditions and examinations throughout the archipelago, the students—who receive free tuition, free board and lodging in picturesque dormitories, a monthly stipend, master classes with accomplished artists, and the chance to represent the Philippines in arts events and internationally exchanges—are expected to grow artistically in five disciplines: theater, dance (ballet or folk), music (voice or instruments), visual arts and creative writing.

Notable alumni include pianists Rowena Arrieta, Aries Caces and Albert Tiu; Cannes-winning filmmaker Raymond Red; the singer Grace Nono; visual artists Gerry Leonardo, Alwin Reamillo, John Cinco, Pablo Biglang-awa, Ian Victoriano, Don Salubayba, Hugo Yonzon, Kawayan de Guia; writer Nick Pichay; and many of today's leading dancers in ballet, modern, and folk dance companies led by Leila Florentino, star of international editions of the musical "Miss Saigon."

In February, the president of Singapore, SR Nathan, visited PHSA and congratulated the students for their commitment to Philippine culture.

In July, Imelda Marcos celebrated her birthday at the school, and the students serenaded her with songs.

"Here in Makiling, we continue to cherish the ideals of the true, the good and the beautiful," said PHSA director Florina Castillo.

Auditions for next year's freshman batch are now ongoing at the following regional test centers on specified dates:

Mariano Marcos Memorial High School, 2090 Carreon St., Sta. Ana, Manila—Nov. 6; and PHSA—Nov. 7.

Graduating elementary students with outstanding abilities in the arts are encouraged to apply for the scholarships. Check out www.phsa.edu.ph. Or get in touch with Reynaldo O. Wong at yergnow@yahoo.com. Or call 09175456653 or 09175440013.

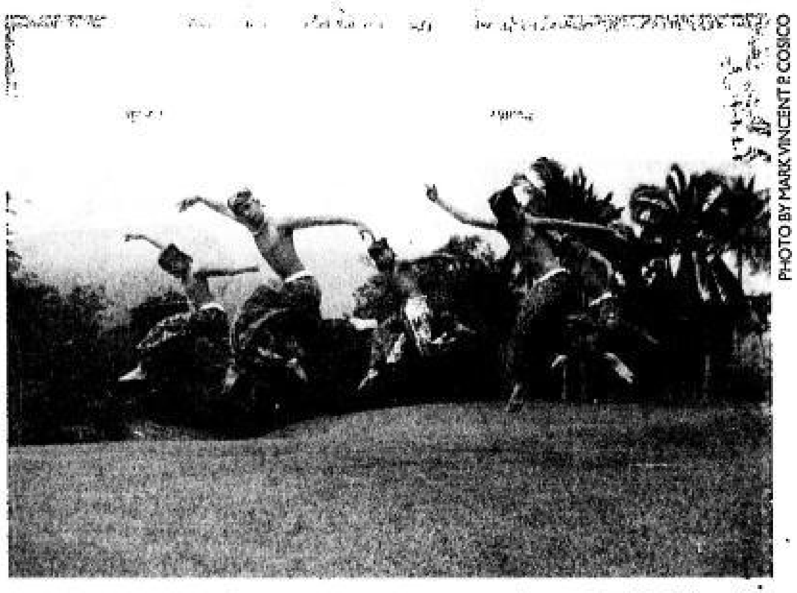
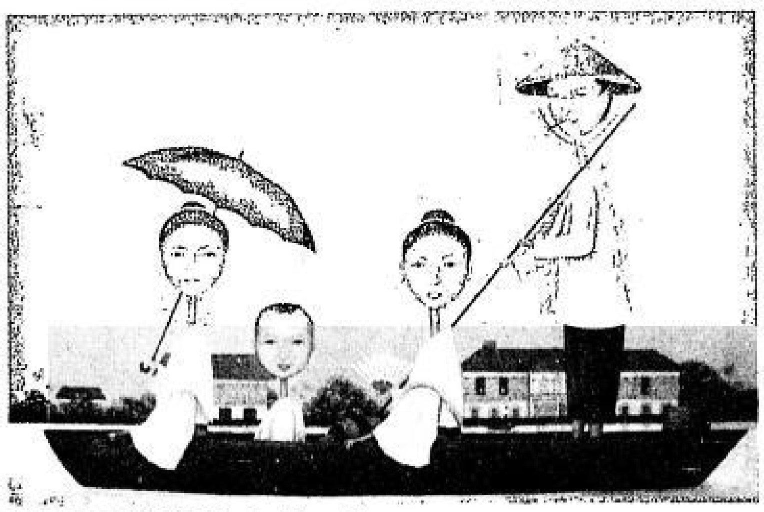
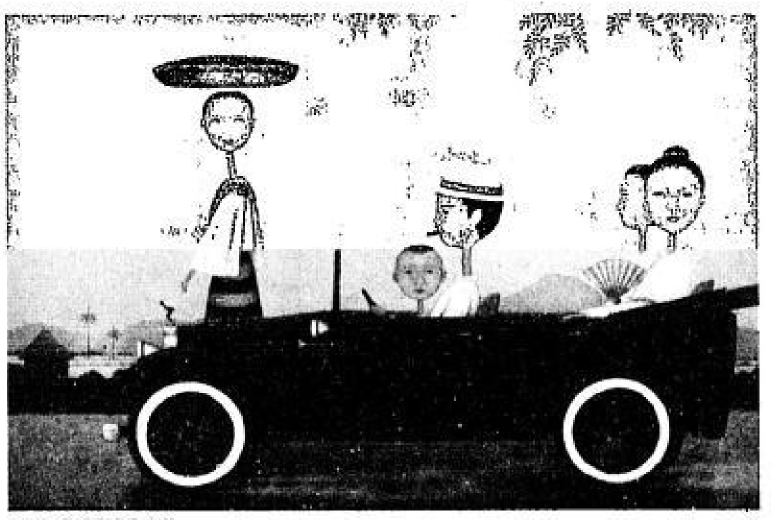
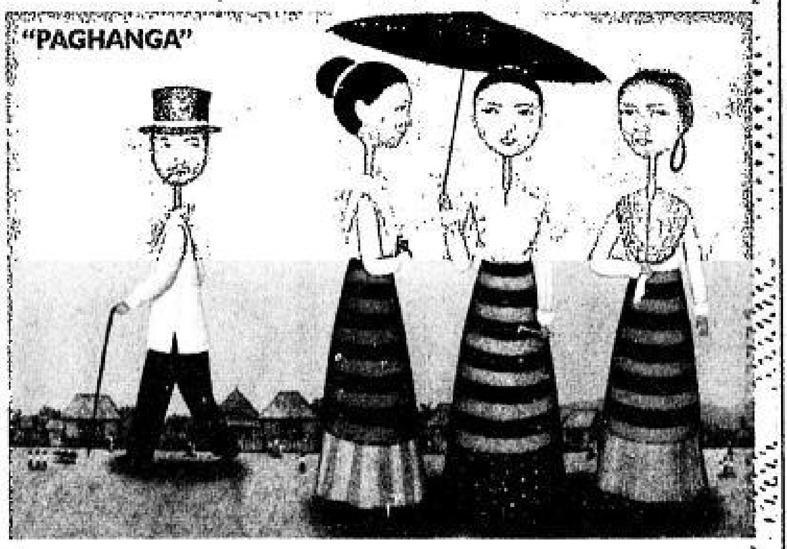


PHOTO BY MARK VINCENT P. COSICO

HIGH ON ART: Students celebrate 30 years of art in Mt. Makiling.


"MALACAÑANG by the River"


"PROGRESO"


"PAGHANGA"

Rubio's 'Old Manila'

IN CELEBRATION OF its fifth anniversary, Galerie Joaquin Main presents Dominic Rubio's "Old Manila," an exhibition of works inspired by the Philippines during the latter part of the Spanish colonial era (1850-1896) and the early American colonial period (1900 -1930).

In the show, which opens Nov. 13 and runs till Nov. 26, Rubio's concern is to capture the nostalgia and romanticism of these periods while giving them a modern sensibility and whimsical appeal.

Rubio, who turns 37 this year, will be presenting 37 oil on canvas works.

A founding member of the Guevarra Group and a graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Fine Arts, Rubio was featured in "Balik Alaala," the inaugural exhibit when Galerie Joaquin Main opened its doors in 2003.

It was also Rubio's show "Early Times" that became the exhibit when Galerie Joaquin Singapore opened at The Regent of Singapore.

In "Old Manila," city folk found great pleasure in patronizing performing arts such as the theater, the *komedya*, the *zarzuela* and going to exhibitions. Other times they would be visiting parks and gardens, in particular the Luneta. Or they would promenade the Binondo Arcade, or the sprawling grounds near University of Sto. Tomas ("Plaza Sto. Tomas").

Many families ("Pamilyang Pilipino") and couples as well enjoyed the almost ritualistic *paseo* where one would promenade in all their finery ("Malacañang by the River and Ginang"). Other pastimes or forms of leisure included the cockfight or the *sabong* ("Tatlong Sabungero").

Sundays were special occasions when the gentleman of the house would bring his favorite fighting cock to the cockfight and the lady of the house prepared to go for religious services both dressed in their Sunday best ("Ginoo" and "Ginang").

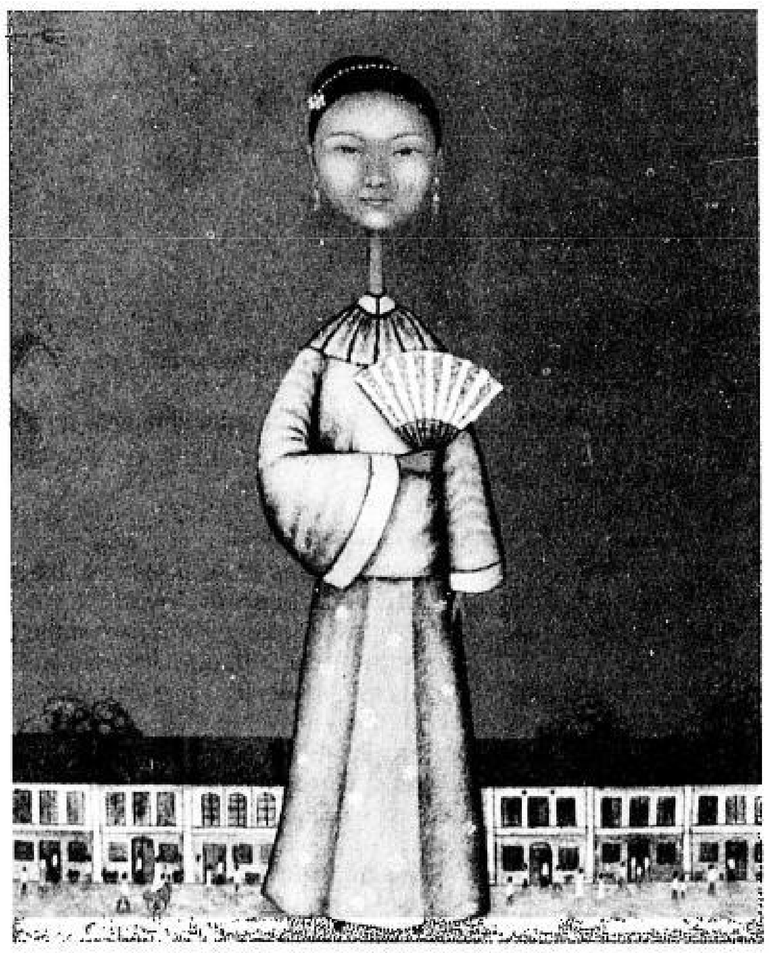
As the Philippines became a major exporter of tobacco with Philippine cigars enjoying equivalent prestige in Europe as their Cuban counterparts, both men and women learned how to enjoy a good puff.

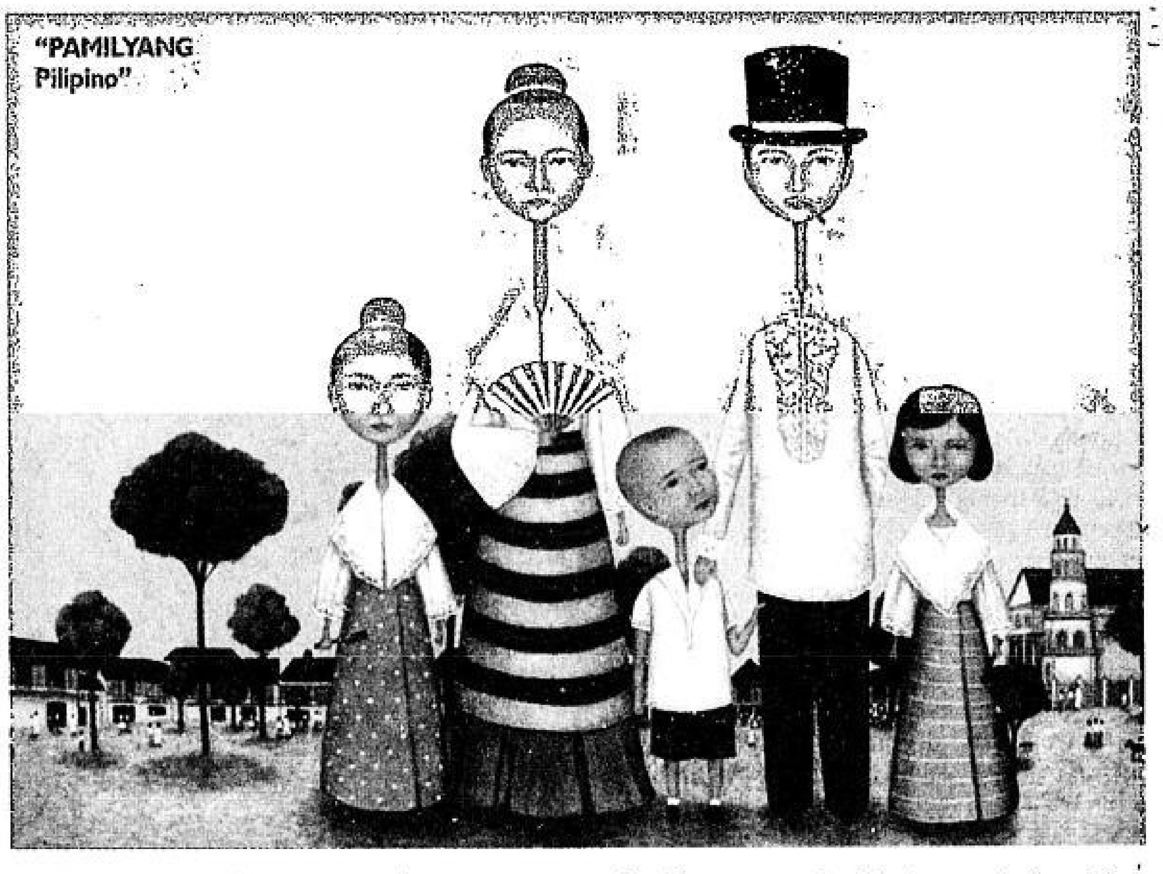
Intermarraiges occurred resulting in the mestiza, whether Spanish-Filipino or Chinese-Filipino. Wealth was accumulated by the *compradors* who handled the export trade via the government supervised export-import monopoly of the Galleon Trade between Manila and Mexico.

The high-heeled gentry from the *comprador* group as well as the landlords who owned the large agricultural plantations came to be known as the "Señor" and "Señora."

Such is the mystical world of Dominic Rubio. Relying on past themes, he has succeeded in interpreting them in a highly contemporary style that has become very popular in today's art scene. His subjects with long craning necks suggest no less than a people with much to be proud of, thanks to their rich culture and heritage.

Galerie Joaquin Main is at 371 P. Guevarra St., cor. Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan (tel. 7239253 or 7239418). Visit www.galeriejoaquin.com


"CHINA Town"


"PAMILYANG Pilipino"

Book on church façades launched

"FAÇADES," A NEW BOOK ON Philippine Baroque churches by Augustinian Fr. Pedro Galende, was launched on Aug. 30 at the historic cloisters of San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

Those who attended the launching included Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Alvaro Trejo of the Spanish Embassy, Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, and Gaspar Vibal, the publisher.

The book is both a photographic voyage exploring Baroque architecture and an encyclopedia of Filipino ecclesiastical architecture. It documents what legions of Filipino masons, carpenters and designers had polished into a definitive Filipino architecture.

The book is a large visual compendium of Philippine churches built between 1565 and 1898. It features over 600 color and 161 archival photographs, covering virtually every region in the Philippines from Batanes to Mindanao.

"Philippine Church Façades" is a major reference work not only for those interested in ecclesiastical and architectural works, but also for ordinary Filipinos who will enjoy the many architectural delights their ancestors had lovingly preserved through 400 years despite fire, floods, typhoon, earthquake, war and other calamities.

The book stands as a testament to the Philippines' enduring cultural heritage, a reminder of the Filipino religious resolve in the face of adversity. Historian and columnist Ambeth Ocampo says, "the book helps us discover our religious and cultural heritage, making us prouder of our heritage and future."

José Rodríguez, director of Instituto Cervantes, says the book is "a visual feast of both historical and contemporary photographs, through which hundreds of years of history unfold before the reader." Here one discovers the "riotous creativity of Spaniards and Filipinos who brought zeal and ingenuity to building wondrous houses of worship."

Fr. Pedro G. Galende, OSA, is the director of San Agustín Museum. The color photos were taken by Estan Cabigas, Erick Lacson and the author himself.

The book is available at the San Agustin Museum and leading bookstores nationwide.

Call 5274060, 5266794 and 5266793.

ALVARO Trejo, deputy of the Embassy of Spain; Fr. Pedro Galende, OSA, author of "Façades"; Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal B. Rosales, Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, and publisher Gaspar Vibal

Traditional arts at UST Museum

"ANG LIKHANG BAYAN SA SANTO TOMAS: Exploring Traditional Arts" focuses on folk arts and crafts. It's an exhibit by the Traditional Filipino Arts (TFA) faculty of the College of Fine Arts and Design of University of Santo Tomas.

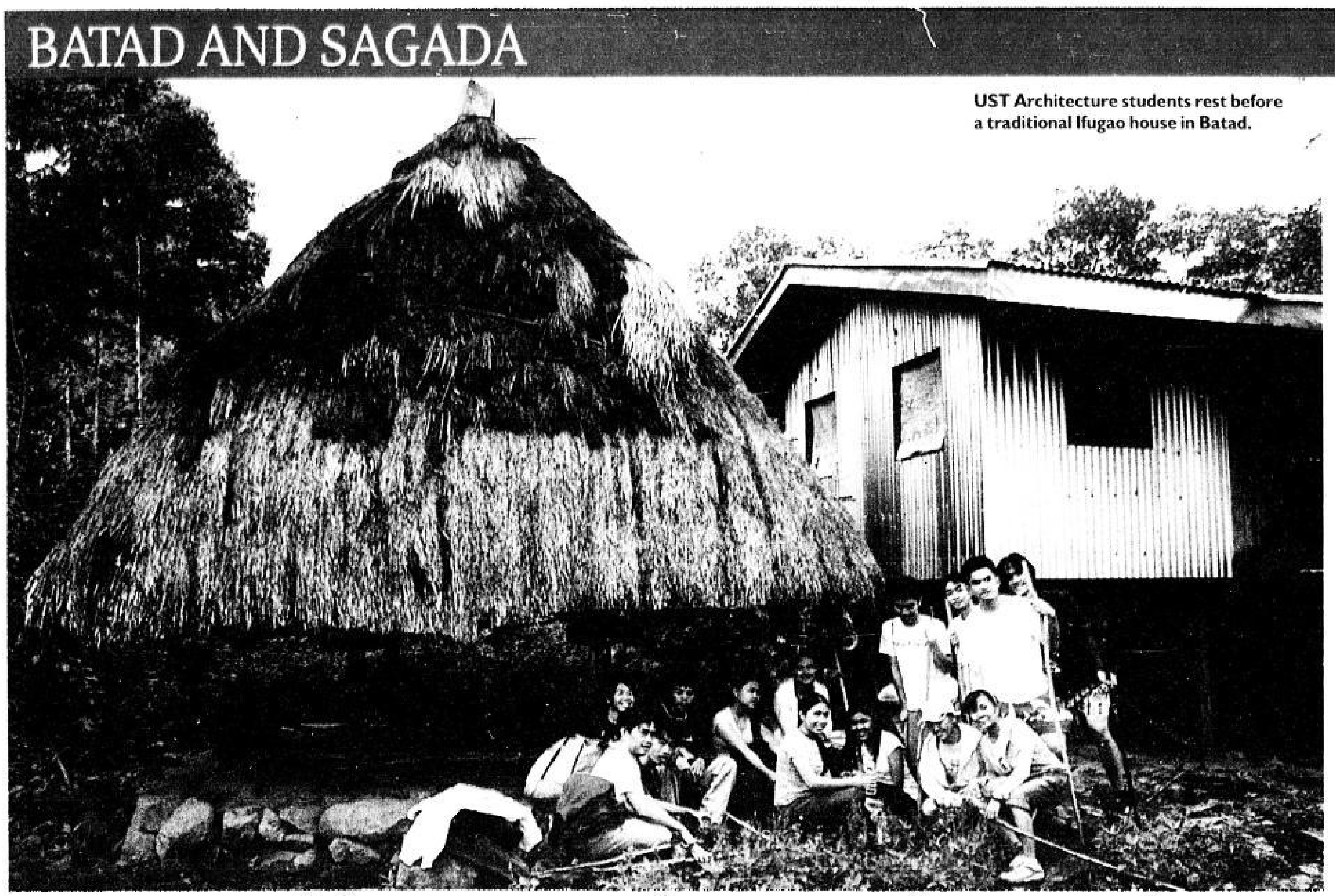
The group was formed to find ways of integrating the teaching of traditional Filipino arts into the visual-arts curriculum.

In the art exhibition, the TFA faculty and their students will share what they have learned from their art-making encounters with the traditional artists of Bulacan, Pateros and Paete. Works consist of, or are inspired by, the *pabalat ng pastillas* (*pastillas* wrapper), *puni* (palm-leaf art), *abalario* (art of beading) and the *taka* (papier-mâché).

Craft demonstration sessions will be held during the exhibit.

It will be formally opened today (Nov. 5) at 10 a.m. at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences. The museum is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The show runs until Nov. 14. The UST Museum, the country's oldest , is on the mezzanine of the UST Main Building, España, Manila. Call 7811815.

BATAD AND SAGADA



UST Architecture students rest before a traditional Ifugao house in Batad.

SAGADA's lively Saturday market

INSIDE Sumaguing Cave

ENJOYING Bocong Waterfalls

A walk in the clouds

Text and photos by Manuel Maximo López del Castillo-Noche
Contributor

THE SEMESTRAL BREAK SHOULD remind everyone not always to associate schooling with pure readings, tests and the Socratic method of endless question-and-answer. Today's learning environment can be diverse and exciting, funfilled and challenging.

At the College of Architecture of University of Santo Tomas, senior and graduating students study and experience architecture not only through traditional classroom learning but also through site visitations and cultural immersions.

Two places have earned a reputation as the alternative classrooms of fourth- and fifth-year UST Architecture students: the barrio of Batad in Banaue, Ifugao; and the town of Sagada sa Lalawigan ng Bundok, or Mountain Province.

For two decades, this writer, an assistant professor of the college and a senior researcher of the UST Center for Intercultural Studies, has, with the assistance of other adventurous faculty members, been bringing a motley crew of Manila urbanites to the communities of the Cordillera. This is to expose pampered and "mallified" students to the realities of basic living and the beauty and traditions of the countryside.

Batad and Sagada are similar yet different in what they have to offer students of general studies. They expose students to the challenges of the natural environment.

Extreme Batad

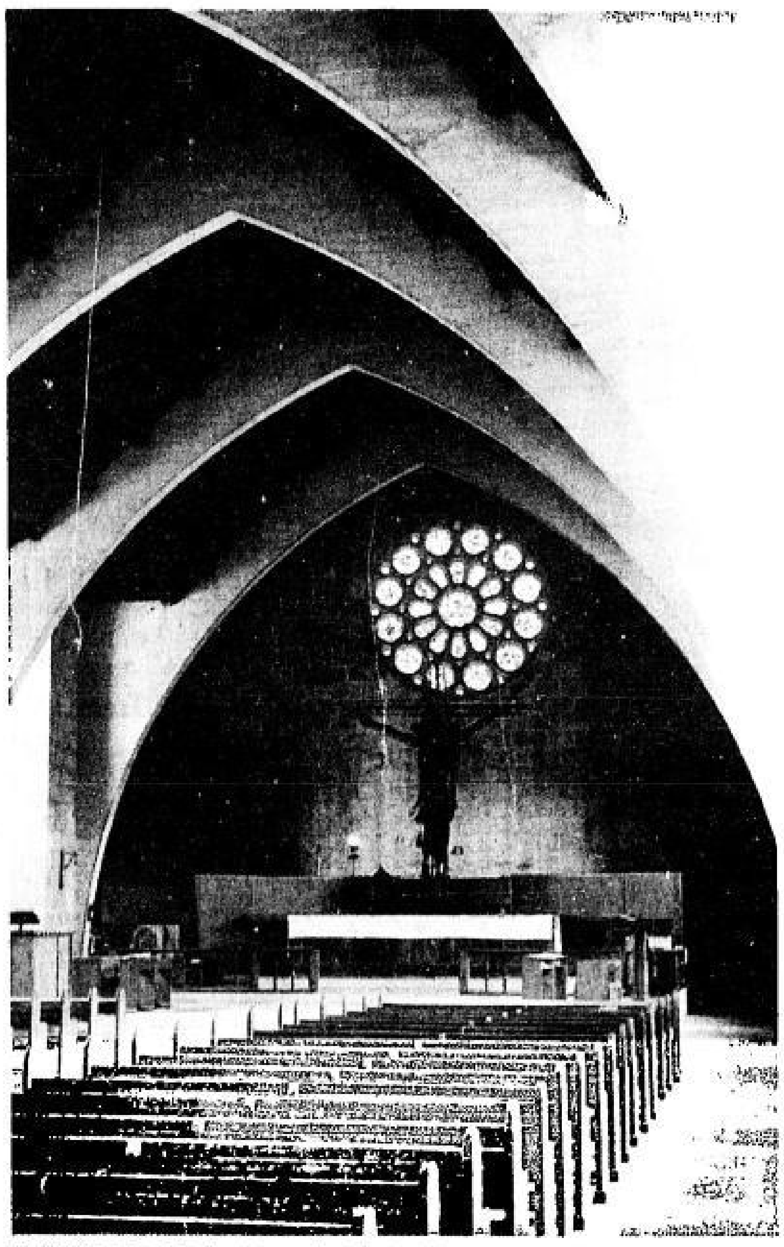
Batad is an experience of the extreme. Accessible through a series of bus and jeepney rides, plus a challenging hike, it offers the marvels of the world-renowned rice terraces.

The community is unlike fast-developing Banaue, with its haphazard and often chaotic jungle of concrete, GI-clad architecture, crisscrossing overhead water and electric lines, compounded by tricycle, jeep and bus noise and fumes.

Batad is relatively serene and traditional in architecture, scenery, environment, culture and tradition. Here one experiences not only the breathtaking beauty of the Batad Amphitheater Terraces, which should not be mistaken for the more famous Banaue Rice Terraces, but also the rustic simplicity of a community where electricity is not a priority, cellphone signal is not available, and time not a factor.

The community experiences problems of cultural incursions, such as unwanted garbage, from both locals and tourists. There also appears the rush to modernize among the locals, resulting in the traditional *bale* houses being abandoned or "improved" with galvanized-iron sheets. Modernization also means the abandonment of some terraces.

An interesting counterpoint is the mechanisms created by the advent of tourism. The presence of European backpackers seems to have resulted in the development of a thriving hippie culture in the area. No amount of bad press from the Julia Campbell slaying can destroy a beautiful place such as Batad.



INTERIORS of Saint Mary the Virgin Church, Sagada

TAPIA Falls, Batad

STAIRWAY to the clouds

Aside from a hiking experience with the terraces as a spectacular backdrop, Batad has other things to offer such as the Tapia Waterfalls, the native handicrafts; and, of course, for design students, the community's architecture, the people's methods of construction, both for houses and terraces, and the natural and organic layout of the place.

Revival of the traditional

Tourism has allowed the locals to organize themselves as guides and to provide visitors with hotel and accommodations.

With my prodding, the community has made initiatives toward the revival of traditional architecture. The traditional houses thereby become means to house the guests.

There have also been attempts by the community to revive native dances and oral traditions. Even the wearing of the native attire, the bahag (loincloth), is seeing a revival. (I'm tempted to force students to wear the native attire and sample the *nganga* as part of their grade requirements.)

The yearly tradition of trooping to Batad allows students to marvel at sites seen only on postcards or in music video of the National Anthem in cinemahouses.

By staying even for three days in the community, the students are exposed not just to the rigors of living in a relatively simple and traditional community; they also get to experience the challenges these communities face in trying to survive and compete amid the onslaught of modern world.

Sagada's amenities

Sagada is entirely different. It is a town complete with amenities for the harried urbanite.

It has a wider array of accommodations, more refined meals (thanks to the presence of expatriates who have intermarried with the locals and now call Sagada their home). It has electricity, mobile-phone signal, and transportation. What Batad lacks in basic amenities and commodities, Sagada easily provides.

Sagada is Baguio 40 years back. Peaceful, slow paced, and natural, it offers students a glimpse of how a community holds dearly to traditions, but at the same time, embraces the needs of progress.

Though Sagada can be classified as a traditional small rural town, with a lively Saturday market, a must-see for students who are interested in how rural communities do business in the hinterlands, it does provide a venue for students to appreciate the marriage of nature, culture, tradition and progress.

That marriage could be seen in the attitude of the local Kankaneys, who, though embracing the Episcopalian faith, still cling to traditional culture such as the burial of the dead, who are stacked on caves or hanging on mountain cliffs. The Kankaneys also promote and conserve their culture through the weaving of their native cloth into various fashionable items.

Sadly, unlike in Batad where traditional architecture is being preserved and built, it is harder and harder to find traditional Kankaney dwellings in Sagada.

Also missed is a glimpse of the traditional dance and oral tales that Batad has seen fit to revive and promote, albeit for the tourist's sake.

Greatest architect

Sagada's main draw is nature. Its most popular destination is the caves.

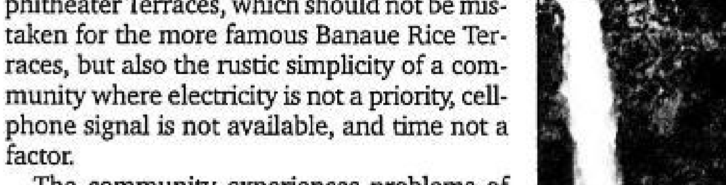
Though spelunking is not part of the UST Architecture curriculum, I have always enjoined my students to experience sites, sounds and encounters that will make them more aware of what communities have to offer and understand how these attractions enable communities to survive, grow and prosper.

Sumaguing Cave is Sagada's prime attraction. Challenging and adventurous, a trek to "the center of the world" is made more memorable not by the experience of getting soaked in ice-cold water or rappelling on coarse limestone, but more by seeing close at hand the caves aglow through guidelights cast on the cavernous space by visitors and tourists.

Through the lights, the chamber becomes a veritable cathedral, evoking the majesty of nature that only the Supreme Architect can create.

Experiencing Sumaguing Cave in Sagada and the Rice Terraces in Batad is not only an architectural educational experience, but also an occasion of deep bonding and camaraderie, of cooperation and friendship among students themselves, between students and faculty, and to a greater extent, between the college the students and faculty represent and the community that welcomes them.

For in Batad and Sagada, where nature and tradition are supreme, all artificialities of city living are abandoned. In communion with nature and the simple people, the students find direct communion with the greatest architect ever—God!



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FROM BOOK TO FILM

Ang Lee's controversial thriller

SCREEN newcomer Tang Wei and Chinese star Tony Leung in Ang Lee's "Lust, Caution"

FROM ANG LEE, THE ACADEmy Award-winning director of "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," comes what's bound to be the most controversial film of the year: "Lust, Caution,"winner of the Golden Lion Prize (Best Picture) at the recent Venice Film Festival.

The critically acclaimed film is also Taiwan's official entry to the Best Foreign Language Film race in next year's Academy Awards.

A startling erotic espionage thriller about the fate of an ordinary woman's heart, it is based on the short story "Se, Jei" by revered Chinese author Eileen Chang, and stars Asian cinema icon Tony Leung ("Hero," "Infernal Affairs") opposite screen newcomer Tang Wei.

"Lust, Caution" begins in Shanghai, 1942. The World War II Japanese occupation of this Chinese city continues in force. Mrs. Mak, a woman of sophistication and means, walks into a café, places a phone call, and then sits and waits. She remembers how her story began several years earlier, in 1938 China.

She is not in fact Mrs. Mak, but shy Wong Chia Chi (Tang Wei). With the Second World War underway, Wong has been left behind by her father, who has escaped to England. As a freshman at university, she meets fellow

ANG LEE'S/ E2

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TENSE scene from "Lust, Caution"

LEUNG as a ruthless Japanese collaborator

WANG Leehom as a fiery revolutionary

LEE directing Tang Wei

Ang Lee's controversial thriller

From page E1

student Kuang Yu Min (Wang Leehom). Kuang has started a drama society to shore up patriotism. As the theater troupe's new leading lady, Wong realizes that she has found her calling, able to move and inspire audiences—and Kuang.

The naively patriotic Kuang convenes a core group of students to carry out a radical and ambitious plan to assassinate a top Japanese collaborator, Mr. Yee (Tony Leung). Each student has a part to play; Wong will be Mrs. Mak, who will gain Yee's trust by befriending his wife (Joan Chen) and then draw the man into an affair. Wong transforms herself utterly inside and out, and the scenario proceeds as scripted—until an unexpectedly fatal twist spurs her to flee.

With no end in sight for the occupation, Wong—having emigrated from Hong Kong—goes through the motions of her existence. Much to her surprise, Kuang re-enters her life. Now part of the organized resistance, he enlists her to again become Mrs. Mak in a revival of the plot to kill Yee, who as head of the collaborationist secret service has become even more a key part of the puppet government. As Wong reprises her earlier role, and is drawn ever closer to her dangerous prey, she finds her very identity being pushed to the limit …

Beautiful, cruel

"To me, no story of Chan Ailing's [Eileen Chang] is as beautiful or as cruel as 'Lust, Caution,'" explains Ang Lee. "She revised the story for years and years—for decades—returning to it as a criminal might return to the scene of a crime, or as a victim might re-enact a trauma, reaching for pleasure only by varying and re-imagining the pain. Making 'Lust, Caution,' we didn't really 'adapt' Chan's work, we re-enacted it, just as her characters act and re-enact their parts."

THE FILM recreates 1940s Shanghai to perfection.

Lee continues, "Chan describes the feeling Wong Chia Chi had after performing on stage as a young woman; the rush she felt afterwards, that she could barely calm down, even after a late-night meal with her friends from the theater and a ride on the upper deck of a tram. "When I read that, my mind raced back to my own first experience on the stage, back in 1973 at the Academy of Art in Taipei," Lee adds. "The same rush of energy at the end of the play I had acted in; the same late-night camaraderie; the same wandering. I realized how that experience was central to Chan's work, and how it could be transformed into film.

"She understood play-acting and mimicry as something by nature brutal: animals, like her characters, use camouflage to evade their enemies and to lure their prey. But mimicry and performance are also ways we open ourselves, as human beings, to greater experience, to indefinable connections to others, to higher meanings, to art, and to the truth," Lee concludes.

Opening across the Philippines on Nov. 7, "Lust, Caution" is Focus Features film distributed by Columbia Pictures.

The poet's gi to humanity

… is the ability to recognize beauty and truth in life's modest moments, thus opening the windows of the human soul

POETRY lovers during the Silkmoon Speakeasy Poetry Reading at A Different Bookstore in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

POETS Marjorie Evasco and Ana Maria Katigbak

by Shirley O. Lua
Contributor

WHAT IS THE PLACE of poetry in a universe beset by violence and terror? Shall poetry lie buried in the rubble? Or shall it call forth like a still small voice out of the whirlwind?

After his country suffered from the tempest of World War II, Polish poet Tadeusz Rózewicz resolved: "After the end of the world / after death / I found myself in the midst of life / creating myself / building life / people animal landscapes . . . Man must be loved / I studied night and day / what must be loved / I answered man."

This is the work of the poet in the age of the Apocalypse: to offer art like a lamb on the altar, and to give hope to humanity through the healing power of the word.

In the aftermath of political scandals and the Glorietta tragedy, A Different Bookstore recently held a special literary event in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City: Silkmoon Speakeasy Poetry Reading. The featured poets were Marjorie Evasco and Ana Maria Katigbak, who read their poems and conversed on the art of poetry.

Marjorie Evasco is the author of two collections of poems, "Dreamweavers: Selected Poems 1976-1986" (Aria Editions, 1986) and "Ochre Tones: Poetry in English and Cebuano" (Salimbayan Books, 1999). Both won the National Book Awards from the Manila Critics Circle. Her latest work, "Ani: The Life and Art of Hermogena Borja Lungay, Boholano Painter" (U of Santo Tomas Publishing, 2006), received from the Manila Critics Circle the Alfonso T. Ongpin Award for Best Book on Art.

Ana Maria Katigbak is an enchanting new voice in Philippine poetry. She has won twice in the Palanca Literary Awards, and this year grabbed first prize in the Philippines Free Press Literary Contest.

The poetry reading was structured like a sonnet, with seven stellar points: Ars Poetica, Poetry and Painting, Poetry and Music, Synchronicities, Eros, The Spiritual, and Continuities. As covenmeister, fiction writer Susan Lara introduced each part.

Both poets have embarked on the exploration of the ekphrastic imagination, i.e., poetry inspired by visual art. Of her poem, "Sfumato," which alludes to Leonardo Da Vinci's method of painting, Katigbak said, "It signifies his take on mystery and paradox—how the artist should launch into mystery and paradox and not be afraid to create. In fact, it is in the midst of mystery and paradox that the artist creates."

Evasco, who recited "Origami," responded, "One of the things I like about poetry is that it uses so few words and then it explodes inside you. Like the 'smoke' of the sfumato, it evokes the mystery. It doesn't point directly to it, but it makes you aware there is a bigger reality, something not seen, very veiled. Therefore, it needs a way of looking, a way of getting through the opacities of life and getting to a subtler, humbler, rounder way of living."

Unusual modes

The ekphrastic approach defines unusual modes of seeing life through art. Evasco remarked that "we are not just describing something that is in the frame but the picture outside the frame to continue the story."

Her "La Condition Humaine" boldly moves out of René Magritte's painting to imagine an other moment: "She turns to the man beside her, / As if to say she understood how inside / And outside the rooms of love / The landscape was not always seamless; / How, every time she turned her heart / Into words to invent the true form / Of being, dustmotes were already trapped / In the light of images, like this morning / Vanished fast into another day."

WRITER Susan Lara

And Evasco would conclude in a "gritty" tone, "In no time they shall each be elsewhere."

Alternative endings

Katigbak was struck by the painter's power to designate alternative endings. "Jean Cocteau's rendition was: he had Orpheus and Eurydice just looking at each other. For me it was the painter insisting on an entirely different ending, where nobody disappears. It's not that he didn't know how the myth ended, it's just that he wanted to change the ending. He felt it was more just and more fair if the myth had ended this way."

She then asked, "Isn't it the job of the poet to do the same thing in poetry—to reverse endings, or to invoke certain kinds of endings, to capture life not the way it is, but the way it should be?"

Her poem, "Jean Cocteau Sketches Orpheus and Eurydice," echoed the painter's vision and dares the Greek myth, "Now widen the frame. Someone in the dark / Calls out his name and he turns / Missing a heartbeat the mistake. / Interrogate the heart that knows too late / Its saboteur. Because beloved. Hold this heartbeat / In a gaze and tamp the beat down flat."

Indeed poetry sees far more, as it gazes inward, and the spirit breaks into a song of sorrow or wonder. Another poem of Katigbak, "Deliver," is a psalm rendered "[b]etween the hours of five and seven" when the persona faces the twilight: "One life becomes so contingent / on another you'd think it didn't know / any other way to be itself. / As when I hold out my palms / Because there are flocks that come to pass / Upon the one that counts them, / I need the birds to come, I need to know / What to do with my hands."

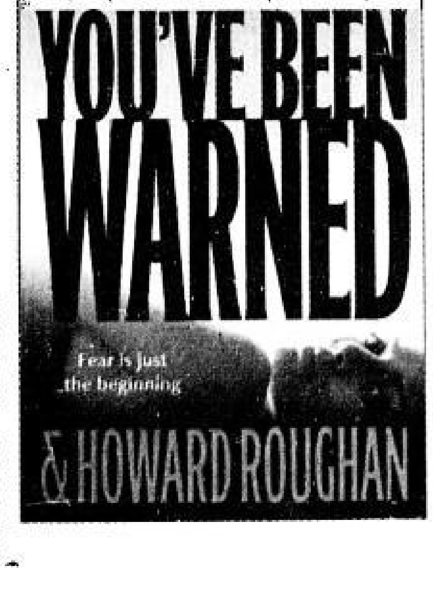
Evasco's new poem "Aqualligraphy of the 10,001 Paths" is such an exquisite masterpiece of form and language. The poem's images leap off to arrest that stunning moment of a white-haired woman in an empress' garden, using water as ink to write ancient verses on stones.

This is Evasco's voice: "Like dragonflies, the characters dip and rise, one moment / On the stone, and in the next becoming mist in the slant / Of sunlight. Soon, she finishes the poem and pauses to view / The last glistening line of words fade into nothingness."

The persona observes that as the water-words fade, the old woman starts all over again. The poem's closing lines evoked warmth and respect towards one who, in spite of the fragility and transience of life's work, persists on. "And everyday now, / This is what she does: writing each lovingly with water / Until the first snow falls."

Evasco's poem underscores the triumph of the human spirit—its resilience and persistence to go on. And this is the poet's gift to humanity: the ability to recognize beauty and truth in life's modest moments, thus opening the windows of the human soul.

As Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz says, "What is poetry which does not save / Nations or people? … In this and only this I find salvation."



Recommended readings

ONE NIGHTMARE CHANGES everything. On the verge of a breakthrough as a professional photographer, a woman is suddenly jolted by a chilling, murderous dream. The nocturnal vision begins to plague her every night, and before long, even haunting her daytime hours. A James Patterson thriller, "You've Been Warned," will keep you up late.

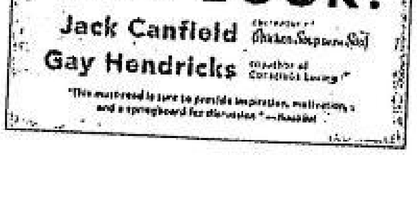
Looking for insight and illumination or simply for that next great book to read? "You've GOT to Read This Book!" by Jack Canfield and Gay Hendricks is a treasure trove of personal stories of books that changed the lives of an impressive roster of notable individuals from Dave Barry, Stephen Covey, Jacquelyn Mitchard, to John Gray.

In a world nearly like ours, Alaska is a beautiful, rough-and-tumble country ruled by a famously eccentric royal family who are about to become fodder for even more gossip once the King's "royal oats" come back in the form of a surprise princess, landing them all in Mary Janice Davidson's "The Royal Mess."

A powerful attraction exists in the universe—between the creator of the universe and the creation whom he loves. "The Secret Things of God" by Dr. Henry Cloud reveals 20 age-old secrets of God-some of which have been true since before Creation and revealed 2000 years ago when the Creator of the Universe became human.

From New York Times bestselling author Michael Palmer . comes a novel of medical suspense that finds three seemingly disconnected lives surging unrelentingly toward one another, linked by "The Fifth Vial." Medical student, scientist and private eye will learn the deeper meanings of brilliance and madness, truth and deception, trust and betrayal.

The books are available at Powerbooks Specialty Store, which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (635-2898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/ 524-3448), Mall of Asia (5560244), Festival Supermall (850-8221), and TriNoma (9431581/82).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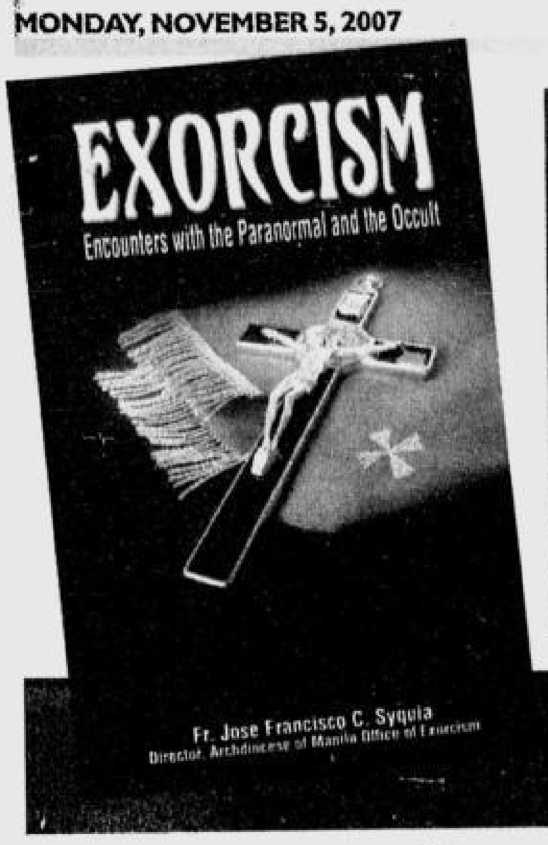
EXORCISM
Encounters with the Paranormal and the Occult
Fr. Jose Francisco C. Syquia
Director, Archdiocese of Manila Office of Exorcism

FR. JOSÉ Francisco C. Syquia, who took up higher studies at Rome's Angelicum, autographs copies of his bestselling book.

'Exorcism,' now on its second edition

DO GHOSTS REALLY EXIST? ARE THERE haunted houses? Is it true that you can be possessed by demons?

These and more questions about the spirits are answered by the bestselling book, "Exorcism: Encounters with the Paranormal and the Occult," written by Fr. José Francisco C. Syquia, director of the Archdiocese of Manila Office of Exorcism.

Published by Shepherd's Voice Publications Inc., the new edition of "Exorcism" is now available in National Book Store branches at 40 percent discount.

Syquia has performed countless exorcism rites, showing how the power of God can drive away evil spirits.

In his introduction to the book, Fr. Syquia says he wrote the book because in the Philippines, there is a growing fascination for the paranormal and a hunger for answers and resolutions to demonic harassment. "There seems to be no end to the supply of paranormal accounts since we as a nation have always had a certain religiosity that opens us up to interaction with the spirit world all around us," he says.

Fr. Syquia adds, "Since prevention is always much easier than the cure, I hope through this work to warn Catholics about the different ways that they may get involved with demonic forces which would then create deadly bondages in their lives."

In his book, Fr. Syquia informs the people about the spirit world, the world of the paranormal and the occult, particularly the realm of extraordinary demonic activity. He said this is to help people know how to properly view and confront the evil spirits through the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Syquia quotes Pope John Paul II who said during a visit to the Sanctuary of Saint Michael the Archangel on May 24, 1987: "The battle against the devil, which is the principal task of Saint Michael the archangel, is still being fought today, because the devil is still alive and active in the world."

"When demonic activity is not so grave," Fr. Syquia writes, "one can by himself find resolution through the different spiritual weapons that God has given the Church to destroy the works of Satan." Thus, the book teaches Catholics the different sacramentals used by the Church to counter demonic oppression.

"One must keep in mind that the devil is afraid of the Christian who knows his identity as a precious child of the all-powerful God and knows also how to use the many spiritual weapons of the Church," Syquia writes.

Included in this gripping book of stories is the Exorcism Rite—the main weapon of the Catholic Church against demonic assaults, a concise manual of prayers for deliverance, as well as a handbook for dealing with infested locales.

Fr. Syquia points out in his book that exorcism and deliverance falls under the Ministry to the Sick. He adds: "This entails a program that encompasses not merely diagnostic procedures and the exorcism/deliverance itself, but must also include follow-ups and evaluations."

According to Bo Sanchez, chairman of SVP, the book will change the way one views the world. "In the end," Sanchez says, "Fr. Jocis' mind-blowing stories will not make you fear the devil as much as they will make you love God more."

Call Shepherd's Voice Publications Inc. at 411787476, or e-mail sale@shepherdsvoice.com.ph.

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Venue: SMX Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1, Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City
For more information, call EXPO Hotline 750-9456
Co-Presentor: SMX CONVENTION CENTER

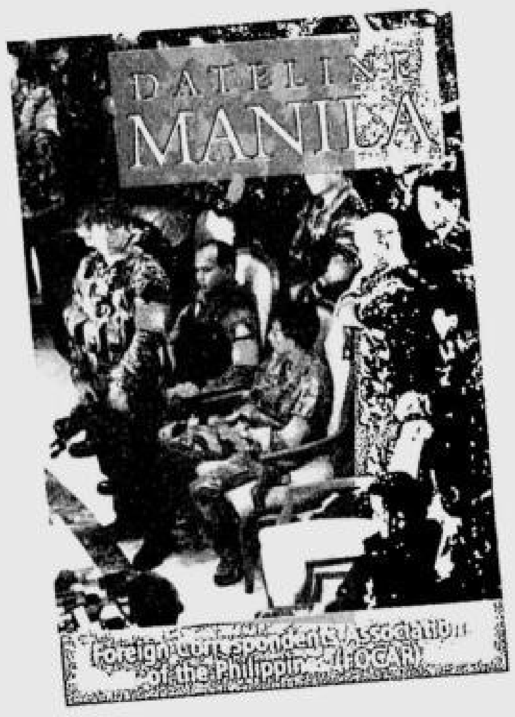
Books on foreign reportage, Maria Kalaw Katigbak

ANVIL PUBLISHING, INC. WILL launch two new books this week.

"Dateline Manila," by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap), will be launched today, 6 p.m., at the Ayala Museum in Makati City. The Inaugural of the Teodoro Benigno Memorial Lecture will precede the launch at 4 p.m.: a talk on "Media in the Time of Terror" by Tony Birtley of the Al Jazeerah in Asia Pacific.

Another new book is Monina Allarey Mercado's "Maria Kalaw Katigbak, A Charmed Life," a biography which attempts to show Philippine history through the eyes of former senator Maria Kalaw Katigbak. It is one of those inevitable fruitions of a life laden with a noble genealogy, beauty, intellectual prowess, and a charmed destiny. The launch will be co-hosted by the Old Swiss Inn 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Swiss Inn Makati.

MARIA KALAW KATIGBAK
A Charmed Life
MONINA ALLAREY MERCADO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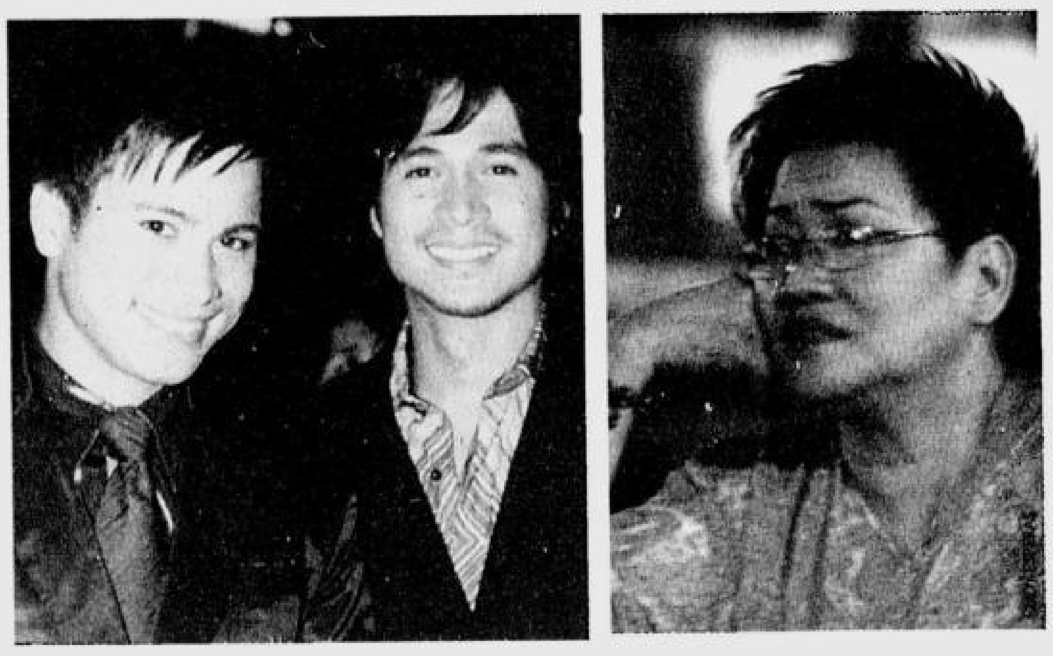
Lolit's Piolo-Sam exposé may be hearsay



EYEWITNESS? Lolit Solis (above) claims to have seen with her two eyes Sam Milby and Piolo Pascual (left) at the poolside coffee shop of Hotel Sofitel, but a show biz insider reveals otherwise.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN A SHOW biz insider told me that Tita **Lolit Solis** wasn't really in Sofitel and it was only a friend who told her about the alleged **Piolo-Sam** sighting. "*Pinanindigan na lang ni* Lolit. Fighter *yun. Wala yung aatrasan. Nagkamali lang ng* date *yung nagkwento sa kanya kaya nagkagulo-gulo na*," revealed my source. Name it, La Lolita has been through it. We can only watch in bewilderment what she will be up to next.

Supportive wives

Sunshine Cruz-Montano and **Lucy Torres-Gomez** both remain unperturbed by talk that they snubbed each other at a show biz party recently.

"*Di naman kami mga bata ni* Lucy to be affected by whatever unresolved issue there is between our husbands," Shine said. "I waved to Lucy at the party. *Nahiya naman ako sumiksik pa sa* table *nila para bumeso*.

Before the party, *nagkaliwanagan na kami sa* phone. It's sad that some people make it seem na *antipatika ako na di bumati kay* Lucy. I really like Lucy. I even told her that she's an angel."

The whole conflict between Goma and Buboy started during their senatorial bid in the May elections. In the heat of competition, they hurt each other unintentionally. To make matters worse, there was miscommunication between their camps. A case of "*maling akala*."

As Shine put it, "Buboy and Goma are both good at what they do *kaya siguro* they clash." Knowing Buboy and Goma to be such gentlemen, I'm sure they will patch things up in due time. "All I can say is this is the work of idle minds," said Lucy. "Shine and I both want what's best for our husbands. We would rather keep what we talked about in private. It's more sincere that way."

With supportive wives like Shine and Lucy, peace can't be too far behind for Buboy and Goma.

Kind mom

At a campaign sortie in Barangay New Zaniga (Mandaluyong) during the SK elections, residents told me how kind **Emma, Angel Locsin**'s mom, is. "When the media found out that Emma stays here, *na*-ambush interview *siya*. After that happened, Angel took her away to shield her from the press. Angel has always helped her mom out even if they live apart."

In between shows, Angel is an ideal daughter. Now she's all set to be a good actress again via her much-awaited *teleserye* "Lobo" with Piolo Pascual. She will portray a PA in a fashion house and PJ's role is a soldier. Her "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode with Sam Milby clobbered the rival show.

That's just a teaser of greater things to come for Angel as she embarks on a new chapter in her life at the Kapamilya network.

Beyonce live

Prepare for some heart-thumpin' action as the prima femme fatale **Beyonce Knowles** rocks the hearts of Pinoys at the much-awaited "Beyonce Experience Live in Taguig 2007," presented by Globe and MTV on Nov. 7 at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field.

Chill to Beyonce's top-of-the-charts hits like "Crazy In Love" and "Baby Boy." After rising to fame with Destiny's Child, Beyonce earned recognition with the group for their excellent stage performance and award-winning songs. When she went solo in 2003, she continued her own winning streak as her album "Dangerously in Love" debuted at No. 1 on the US and UK album charts.

Tickets are at P5,500, P2,500 and P600. For ticket inquiries, call 891-9999.

Beyonce will definitely take you to music heaven and beyond!

Horror spoof

OctoArts Films' "Pasukob," which opens

LOLIT'S/ F2

DID YOU KNOW...

Entertainment highlights during the week of Nov. 4-10:

1951: Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner were married. She filed for divorce in 1954.

1966: Paul McCartney supposedly was killed in a car crash, according to the "Paul is Dead" hoax that circulated in 1969.

1974: Elton John released his "Greatest Hits" album.

1984: Prince launched his Purple Rain tour in Detroit.

1990: "Dances With Wolves," starring Kevin Costner, opened in US.

2006: Britney Spears filed for divorce from Kevin Federline. They had been married for just over two years, and she had given birth to their second son just two months earlier.

AP

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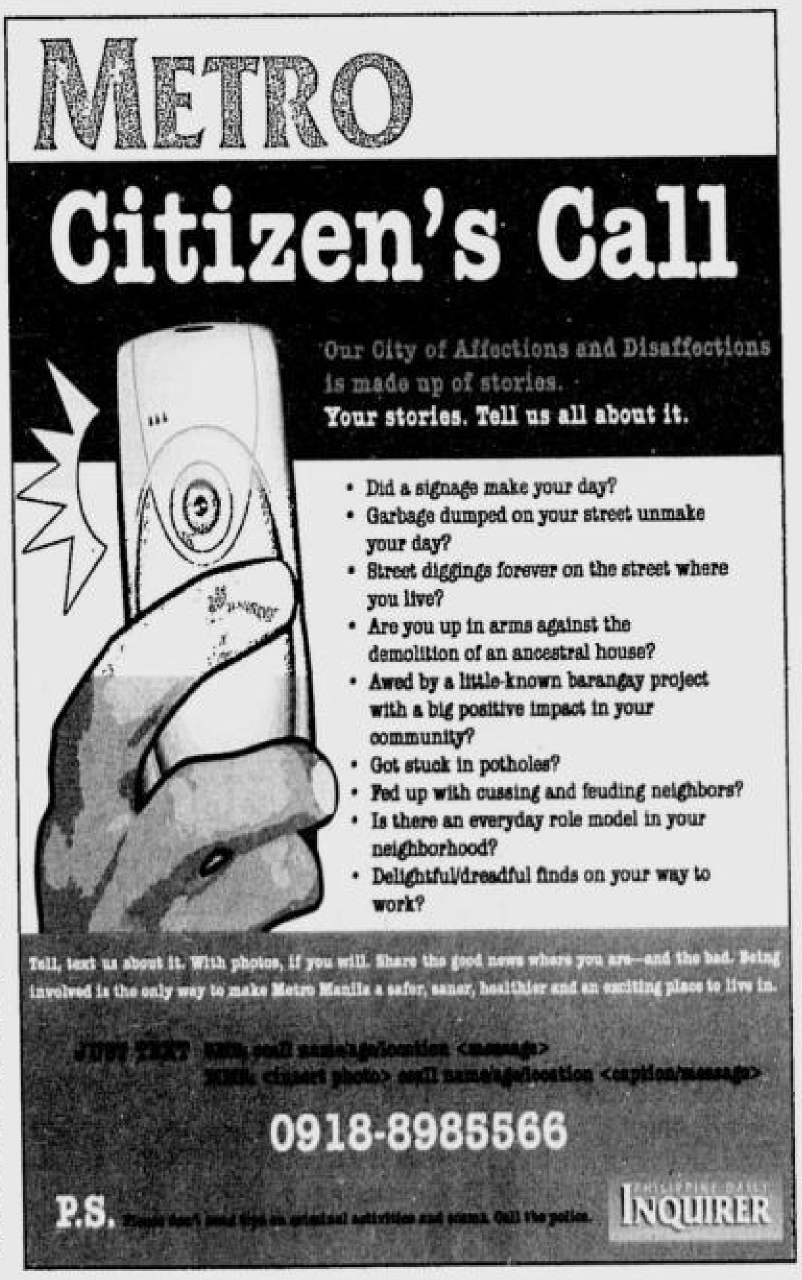

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- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

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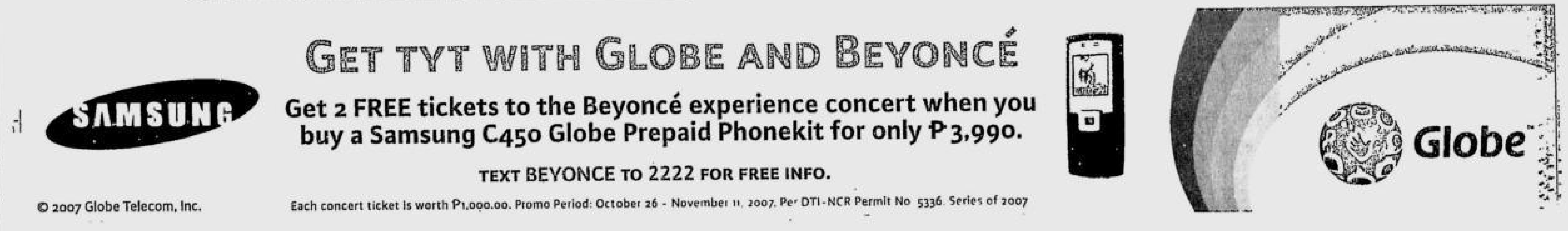

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4 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 HIDE and SEEK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 UNREST 1:00 3:15
STARDUST 4:55 7:35 10:00
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9 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
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Thin sports paro

NEW YORK—YOU, WITH SCRIPTS OF badminton drama, kickball glory, and tiddlywinks tragedy: Hurry to Hollywood.

From 2004's "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" to this year's "Blades of Glory," comedies of unlikely sports are being churned out. But "Balls of Fury," the new ping-pong romp, may signify the twilight of the trend.

There's no Will Ferrell here, no Ben Stiller. But, there's Dan Fogler, a Tony winner for Broadway's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

Written by "Reno 911!" co-creators Thomas Lennon and Ben Garant (who also directs) "Balls of Fury" may be conventional for its mock athleticism, but there is a natural, fresh comedy about Fogler.

With long, thick curly hair, pointy mutton chops and portly body, he has the look of someone who accidentally wandered onto a movie set, shrugged, and decided to play along.

Fogler plays Randy Daytona, a former ping-pong prodigy haunted by his loss in the 1988 Olympics. Now washed-up, he's performing table tennis tricks at a Nevada casino. "I get introduced by a cockatoo," he explains.

Besides wearing Reebok Pu
is clad in Def Leppard T-shirt
costume of ex-prodigies.

Because of his "unique skil
called upon by an FBI agent (
to infiltrate the lair of a cri
mind: the ping-pong-loving
pher Walken).

Daytona must first improve
skills so that he's invited to Fen
derground tournament. He t
town's resident master, V
Hong), who dispenses such pl
the game as: "She is like a f
prostitute. It takes years to lear

By teaching a white pe
Wong risks banishment fror
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It's this kind of "Naked G
sense that is the best of "Balls

Once Daytona completes
training and proves himself
menacing Dragon (an 8-yea
gains entry to Feng's (literally)
tournament with the receipt o
"golden paddle."

It should come as a surprise

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R-13

2 BALLS OF FURY
2:10, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00
G

3 HALLOWEEN
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R-13

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SUPERBAD R18 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	HALLOWEEN R13 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:00	30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30

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MTRCB GP
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② BALLS OF FURY
MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15
5:30, 7:45, 10:00

③ 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
MTRCB R-13
2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

④ HALLOWEEN
MTRCB R-13
2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

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DAN Fogler in a scene from "Balls of Fury"

REVIEW

Walken is well-suited to playing a diabolical ping-pong enthusiast. He greets his guests ominously, but departs by bidding them "toodles." He says—in his trademark pronunciation—that his extravagant lair is "not much, but it's homey," and confesses he has no idea how to care for his panda: "I'm not really sure what they eat."

At the main event, a number of ridiculous champions of ping-pong converge, most notably Daytona's rival, the German Karl Wolfschtagg (Lennon). These scenes, like many in the film, are an exercise in comedy excess, featuring dual-paddle Siamese twins and a hulking, pecs-flexing giant with a soft touch.

Here and elsewhere, "Balls of Fury" reverts to "Matrix"-like camera zooms, pointless action sequences and as much double entendre as it can manage.

That may sound fine to some, but for others, it overshadows the movie's smarter slapstick surprises.

Once the match is finished and "Balls of Fury" is over, the cast sways to a rendition of Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar on Me," joining in the tradition of the conclusions of films like "There's Something About Mary" and "The 40 Year-Old Virgin."

But the movie hasn't earned such an encore and you're again reminded of the film's copycat genesis.

Sell your sport scripts if you can; the genre's end may be nigh. *Jake Coyle, AP*

Jerry Seinfeld returns with the animated 'Bee Movie'

NEW YORK—JERRY SEINFELD CASUALLY REFERS to "the TV show" like it was just another resume entry, a vaguely familiar event from his past.

Wait, wasn't that TV show "Seinfeld"? One of the greatest comedies in US television history?

Seinfeld, it seems, has moved on more than most of his audience. Though "the TV show" ended its historic run in 1998, the perpetual glow of "Seinfeld" has been mostly uninterrupted because its star and namesake has remained largely out of sight—like his beloved Superman resting in his Fortress of Solitude.

The 53-year-old comedian is releasing "Bee Movie," a film which began as a causal pun made over dinner with Steven Spielberg. A call was then placed to Jeffrey Katzenberg, CEO of Dreamworks Animation SKG, and the small joke eventually spiraled into a $150 million blockbuster which Seinfeld has spent more than three years writing, producing and voicing the main character.

Return to stand-up comedy

Seinfeld, of course, hasn't been doing nothing since "Seinfeld." He and wife Jessica were married in 1999 and have since had three children. Seinfeld's mission has generally been to return to being a stand-up comedian; his relentless work to build a new act was documented in the 2002 film "Comedian."

But that documentary grossed less than $3 million in limited release. Tens of thousands have seen Seinfeld in comedy clubs across the country—contributing a significant chunk of estimated yearly earnings of $60 million, including $15 million for "Seinfeld" residuals, according to Forbes.

For years Katzenberg pitched movie roles to Seinfeld, who had numerous opportunities to star in films. So why did Seinfeld make "Bee Movie" his first major post-"Seinfeld" project?

"One very simple difference: This was his idea," says Katzenberg. "If you look at Jerry's work, his career was always about doing things he authored."

Katzenberg adds: 'Jerry has his own rhythms and his own interests."

Like the bees depicted in "Bee Movie," Seinfeld believes in sticking to what you do best, and for him, that's centered upon the comedic persona he's sharpened and refined over decades. He would rather leave the acting to the pros. "Tom Hanks is available. He can do it," he jokes. AP

Lolit's...

From page F1

on Nov. 28, will be a laugh-out-loud face-off between comedy royalties **Ai Ai de las Alas** and **Ruffa Mae Quinto**. It's a spoof of the box-office horror flick "Sukob."

Ai plays the luck-forlorn Julia Rose while Ruffa Mae is fate's favorite Jenny Rose. They brush with destiny when they both decide to get married. Ai says one thing she learned from Peachy while shooting is not to dwell on the past. The two comediennes have no insecurities towards each other.

"*Buti na lang magkaiba kami ng* network or else *kabahan na si* Peachy *sa akin*," Ai says in jest.

She finds her leading man **Antonio Aquitania** cute. "But graduate *na ako* from falling for younger men," Ai says, laughing. "*Imbes na ako ang susukob, sila ang sumusukob sa akin. Kaya suko na ako!*" When it comes to making people laugh, though, she will never surrender.

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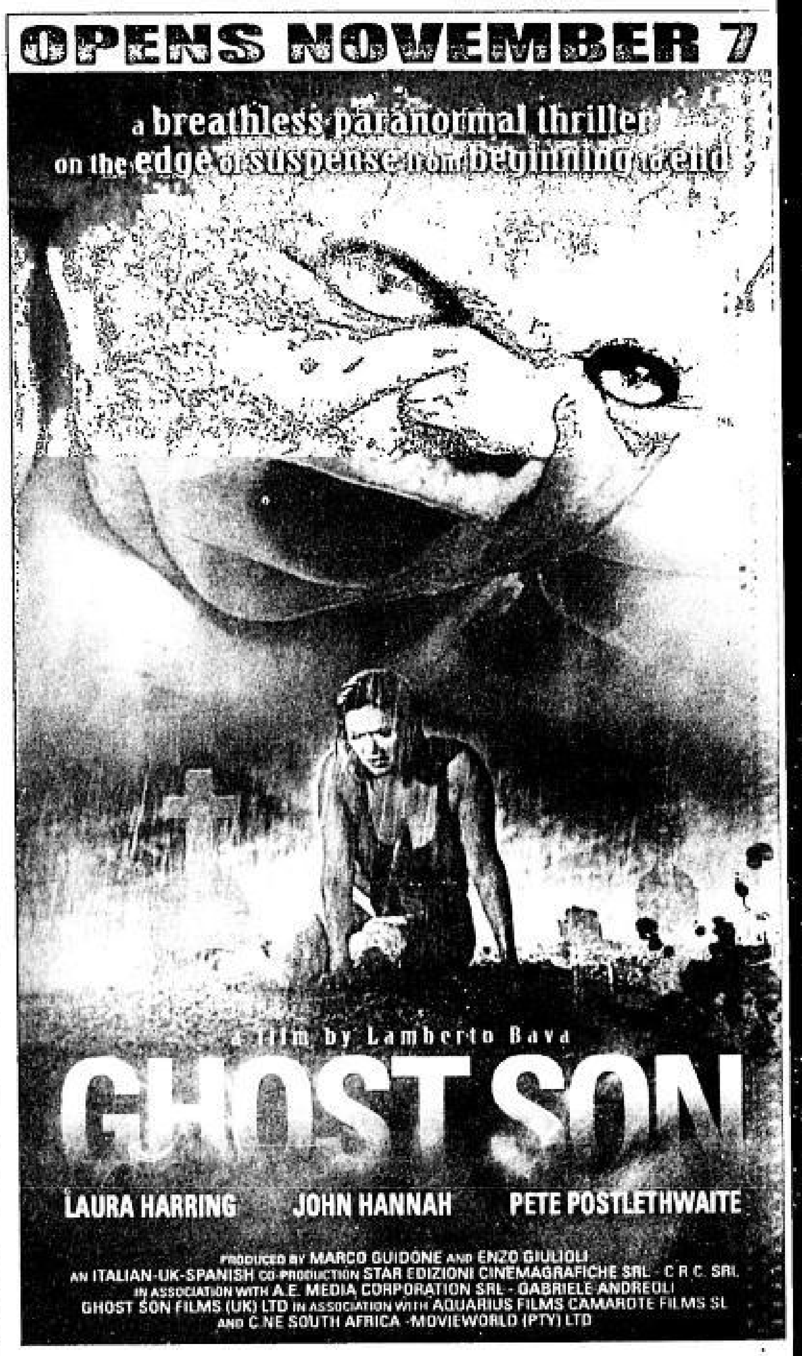
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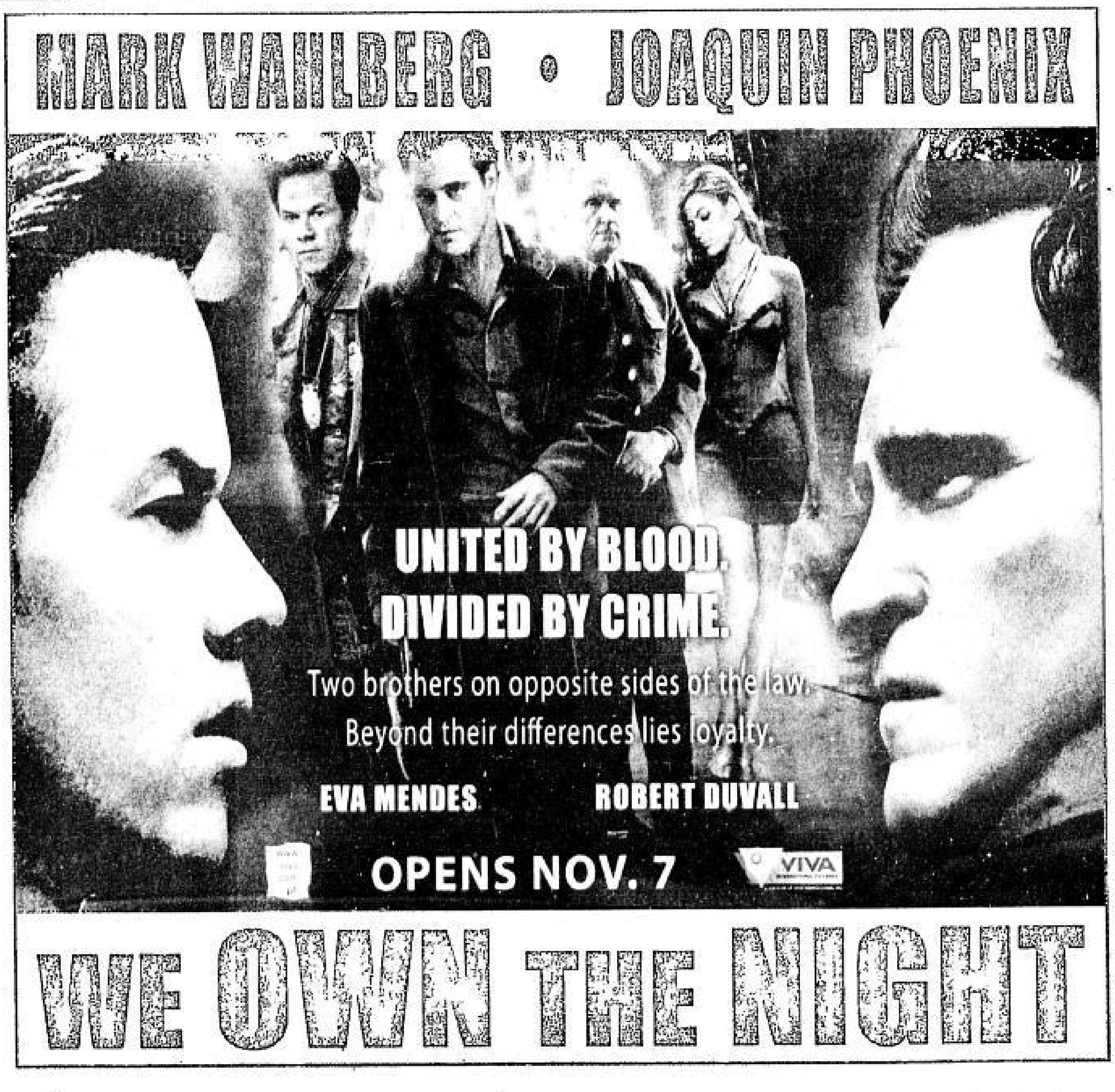
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Sid the kid

He's more than just Mark Gil's son

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WITH ASTONISHING candor, Sid Lucero admits he "fell in love" with the role of Joem Bascon, his co-star in Adolf Alix and Dave Hukom's "Batanes."

"I saw the rushes and thought Joem was perfect for the part [Iza Calzado's Ivatan husband]. He did a fantastic job. It would've been weird if I were cast in that role."

Although he already played the lead in Adolf Alix's "Donsol," he welcomed tackling a supporting role in "Batanes."

"Why should I mind not being the lead?" He is genuinely perplexed. "I'm just glad that I'm on board. I actually consider myself lucky because my work load wasn't that heavy and I got to enjoy myself on the island."

SID Lucero with Iza Calzado, his co-star in "Batanes"

He did a little sightseeing on nearby island Sabtang. "The huge waves pounded our four-seater fishing boat."

While co-stars Glaiza de Castro and Daria Ramirez were hollering in horror, Sid, like Taiwanese lead star Ken Zhu, played it cool.

"I thought it was exciting," Sid recalls.

After his 12-day stay in Batanes, his friends in Manila pointed out that "I looked younger *daw* [upon my return]. It's because it was a stress-free trip."

He tips his hat to Ken. "He's incredible. We talked a lot about sports. He's a tai chi champ while I'm into boxing," he notes.

Ken the writer

Ken also helped fine-tune the Mandarin lines of dialogue in the script of the new series ("Kung-Fu Kids") Sid is working on.

"He took the script with him and translated and rewrote the lines. He made it shorter and simpler. He told me that he had worked on the script until five in the morning," Sid recounts.

"Batanes" is Sid's third movie with Adolf—after the Cinemalaya entry "Donsol" and the Cinema One movie "Tambolista."

(Cinema One runs from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Trinoma and Glorietta.)

"He focuses on my acting," Sid says of Adolf.

At first, Sid thought his "Tambolista" character Pablo was too much of a departure.

"He's a hard-core bum who talks in street slang. Very rowdy and noisy," the actor points out. "It was hard, but Direk Adolf was there to guide us. Especially since TV acting is different from movie acting. I had to tone it down for the movies."

Although he has yet to act in a mainstream film, Sid is a true movie baby.

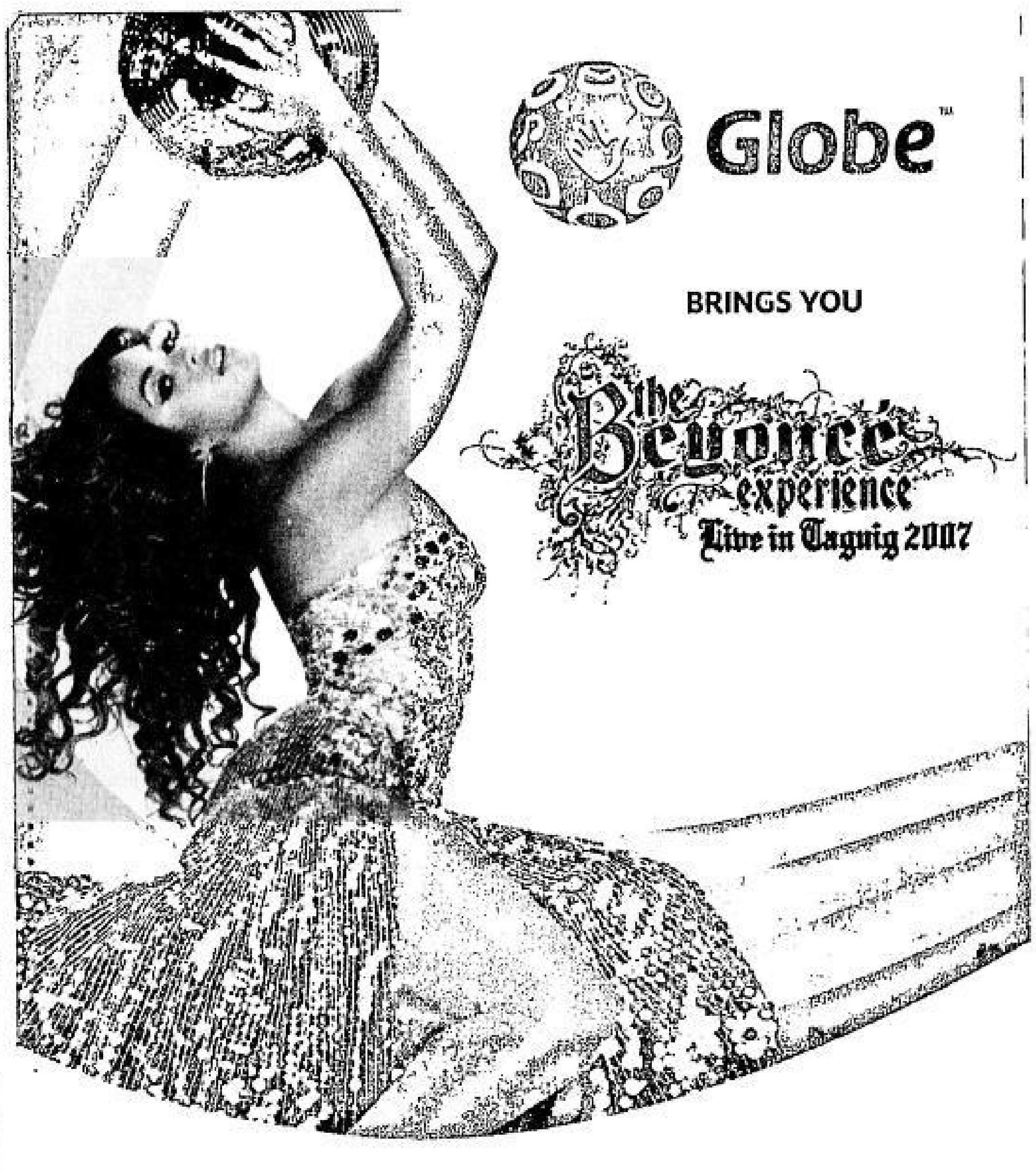
He got his screen name from father Mark Gil's character in the Mike de Leon film "Batch '81."

"My dad and mom [Bing Pimentel] met on the set of that movie. I was made in that movie," he jests.

He first saw "Batch '81" in film class in college.

"I'm very proud that my parents are part of a movie that's being studied in school," he asserts. "But the sad part is that we seldom get to see movies like that now. That's why film festivals like Cinemalaya, Cinema One and Cinemanila should be commended."

For Cinemalaya movies, Mark (for "Rotonda") and Sid (for "Donsol") were nominated Best Actor in this year's Urian. (Mark tied with Rustom Padilla for the honor.)



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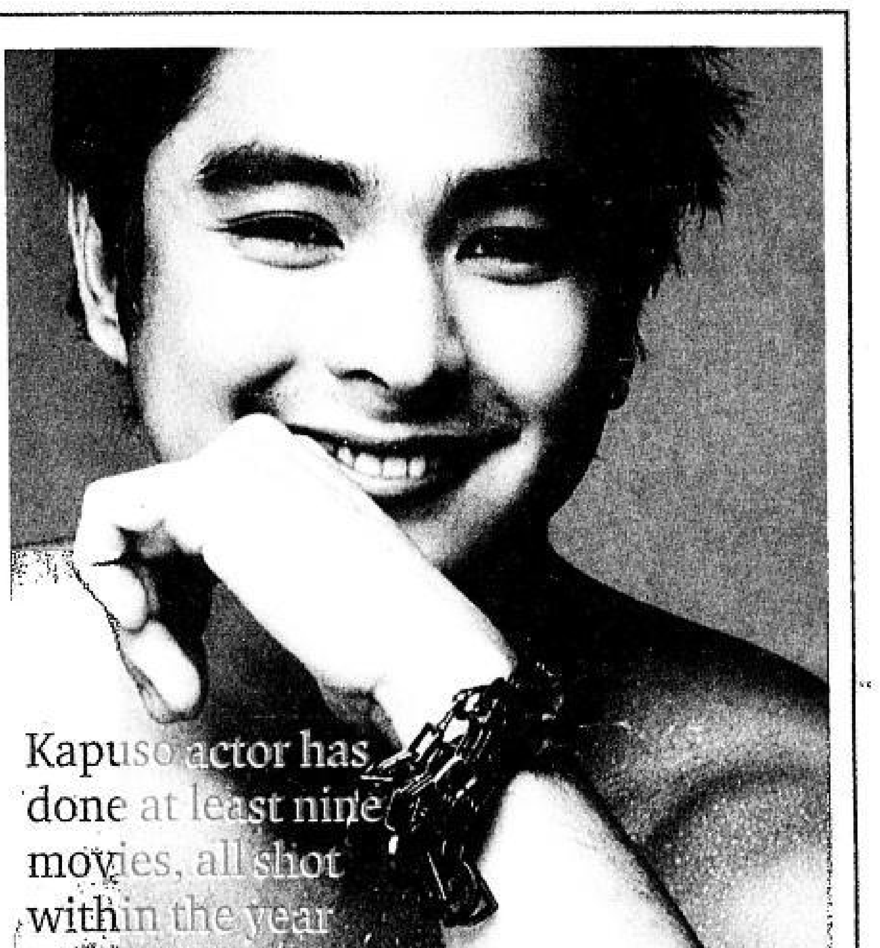
Coco festival



Kapuso actor has done at least nine movies, all shot within the year

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ANYONE WHO STILL COMplains that the local film industry is dying should talk to actor Coco Martin who appears in at least nine movies, all shot within the year.

It's a veritable Coco festival.

As opening salvo, Neal "Buboy" Tan's "Ataul for Rent" is premiering on Nov. 7—to be followed by Adolf Alix's "Tambolista," Dante Mendoza's "Tirador," Alix's "Nars," Rahyan Carlos' "Pitong Tagpo," Raya Martin's "Box Office" episode in "Now Showing," Martin Cabrera's "Condo," Celso Ad. Castillo's "OFW" and Alix's "Batanes."

"Tambolista" is part of the Cinema One digital film fest, running from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Trinoma and Glorietta. "Batanes" is set to have a commercial run on Dec. 5.

By January next year, he is headlining Martin Cabrera's "Condo," an entry in the Bagong Agos film fest of new directors.

Coincidental

Coco, who has just signed up as a member of the Kapuso male group Studs, is also slated to appear in GMA Films' Valentine presentation, as well as in Joselito Altarejos' new movie under Viva.

If you ask Coco, this windfall is just "coincidental." To think that he almost gave up on the biz and moved to Canada after his controversial star turn in Dante Mendoza's "Masahista."

Now that he's back, he promises to pull out all the stops. Case in point: He didn't think twice about auditioning for "Tambolista."

"What I like about him is that he really wants to develop his craft," says Adolf. "He's willing to experiment with his roles and he has no qualms whether the part and/or budget is big or small."

After "Tambolista," Adolf hired him in two more films, "Nars" and "Batanes."

"In 'Nars,' I play a gay nursing student; in 'Batanes,' an Ivatan and the best friend of Iza Calzado's husband [portrayed by Joem Bascon]," notes Coco, who took acting lessons under "Pitong Tagpo" director Rahyan.

He says that his "Tambolista" director Adolf also guided him in his portrayal of Billy—Jiro Manio's conflicted brother.

Acting shift

"At that time I was doing the [GMA 7 afternoon soap 'Daisy Siyete'], so Direk Adolf asked me to shift from TV to movie acting," Coco recounts.

"It's not that I look down on TV acting, it's just that the role had different requirements. In the end, Coco got the character's nuances," says Adolf.

Acting teacher Rahyan says that Coco "feels the role and moves, eats and speaks like the character on the set."

"Pitong Tagpo" co-star Cherry Pie Picache says that, at first, she thought Coco was "too baby-faced" to play her lover. "But he pulled it off onscreen. He's eager to learn and has a good attitude."

In each new movie, Coco takes pain to make each character distinct.

"For variety, I make it a point to change the way I look. If the role requires, I try to lose or gain weight. Or I grow a mustache. For 'Batanes,' I got a tan," he explains. "I prepare for each movie—physically and acting-wise."

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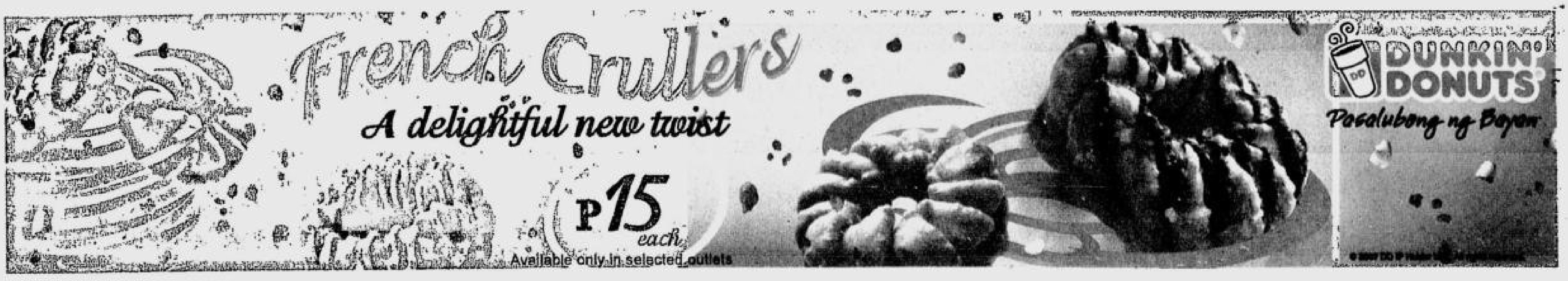
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One night with Beyonce

REUTERS

By Pocholo Concepcion

WHEN FRANCIS LUmen of MTV Philippines saw Beyonce in concert in San Diego, California recently, he was so convinced that the R&B superstar should bring her act over to Manila.

With a 10-piece, all-female touring band (plus another 10 female dancers), Beyonce's gig on Nov. 7 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City looks like one big, festive party.

However, it's a celebration that may not be simply about temporal pleasures.

Beyonce, the 26-year-old former lead singer of the girl group Destiny's Child, has morphed into a symbol of the independent, strong-willed woman who has not necessarily cut off her ties with her parents.

In fact, her father Mathew Knowles is still her manager (and co-producer of her albums), while her mother Tina, who owned a hair salon where Beyonce first performed as a child prodigy, has remained her stylist.

Named after her mother's maiden surname (Beyince) of Louisiana Creole origin, the Texas-born Beyonce Giselle Knowles was, at age seven, already a soloist in a church choir and attending dance school.

Destiny's Child was originally a quartet that Beyonce formed with her childhood friends.

In a span of nine years (up until 2005 when the group disbanded amicably after a world tour), Destiny's Child has become one of the most biggest R&B/pop acts of all time with multi-platinum albums and Grammy awards.

5 Grammy awards

Beyonce's own career was no less phenomenal. Her debut solo album in 2003, "Dangerously in Love," won five Grammy awards the following year and has sold 12 million copies worldwide.

The follow-up, "B'Day," was another hot seller and has preceded the ongoing "Beyonce Experience" tour.

The "B'Day" deluxe edition album, available locally on Sony BMG, is a CD-DVD package with

ONE NIGHT/ G2

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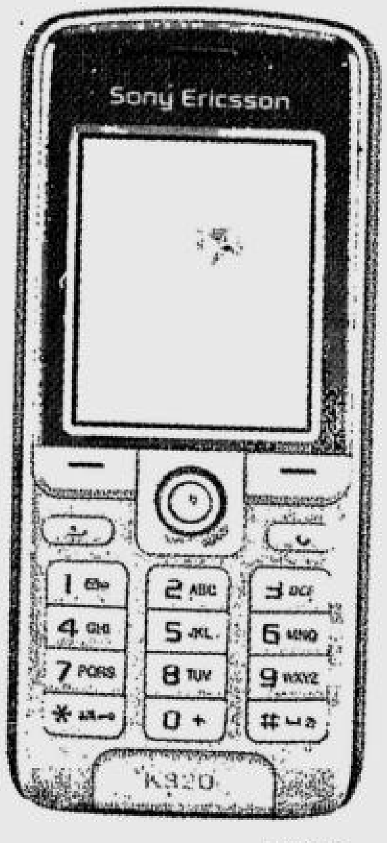
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One night...

From page G1

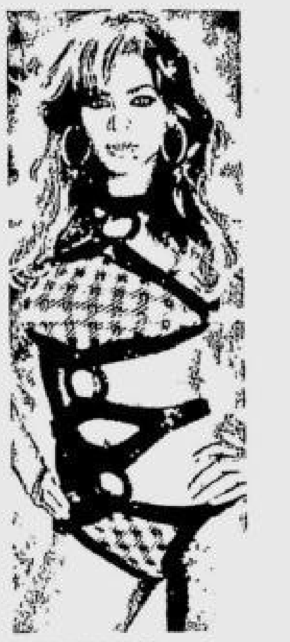
19 tracks and 12 videos. For the first-time listener, it's a good introduction to Beyonce's singing and songwriting skills.

For the most part, these songs bounce on an irresistible groove, jump-starting on Beyonce's vocals, whose range is wide enough to sound smooth and gritty at the same time. Several tracks also feature the obligatory guest spot for other singers, notably her BF Jay-Z, who lends his "staccato" rap style in two numbers.

Overall, the music is spare, mostly minimal keyboards propelled by an incessant back beat from what sounds like a drum machine, yet ingenuously performed because it hounds and sticks to Beyonce's vocals like an inspired session musician.

But for all its hip-shaking energy, perhaps the most outstanding part in the album is found in two ballads: "Resentment," backed by an electric guitar, is about the pain of being lied to; and "Listen," a tour de force number from Beyonce's own star turn in the film "Dreamgirls."

Expect a lot of skin and provocative moves to come with Beyonce's music on concert night this Wednesday. But don't ever ignore the voice.



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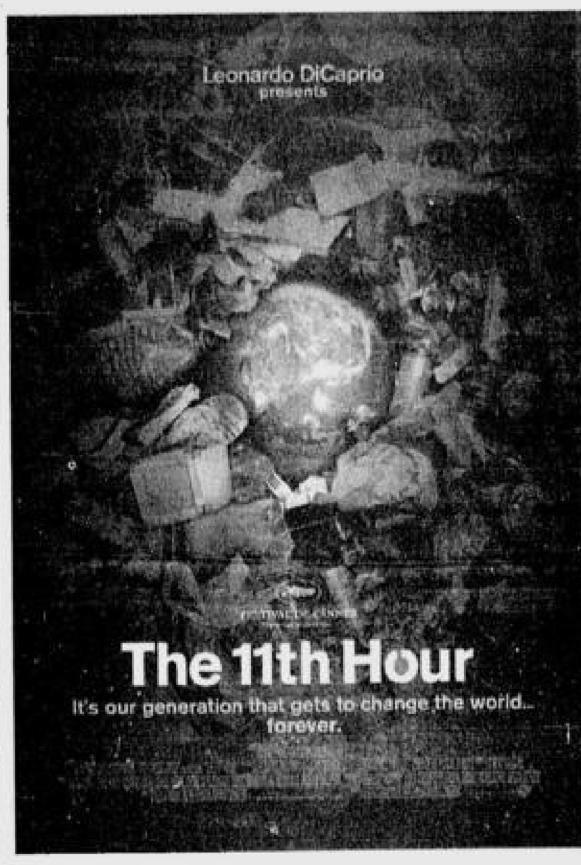

WB AND SM CINEMA join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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SPACE STATION Admission Price: P200 5:30 PM

1. RENDITION
2. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3. BALLS OF FURY
4. HALLOWEEN
5. RESIDENT EVIL 3
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1. HIDE & SEEK
2. STARDUST
3. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4. RENDITION
5. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6. HALLOWEEN
7. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8. BALLS OF FURY
9. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
10. UNREST
11. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12. HIDE AND SEEK

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2. HALLOWEEN
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3
4. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5. RENDITION
6. BALLS OF FURY
7. STARDUST
8. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9. HIDE AND SEEK
10. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11. UNREST
12. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1. HALLOWEEN
2. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3. UNREST
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3
5. STARDUST
6. BALLS OF FURY
7. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8. HIDE AND SEEK
9. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
12. RENDITION

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2. HALLOWEEN
3. BALLS OF FURY
4. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5. HIDE & SEEK
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
8. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9. RENDITION
10. RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. UNREST
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5. HALLOWEEN
6. HIDE AND SEEK

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1. BALLS OF FURY
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. 30 DAYS OD NIGHT
4. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5. HALLOWEEN
6. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7. UNREST
8. HIDE AND SEEK
9. RENDITION

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. HALLOWEEN
4. BALLS OF FURY

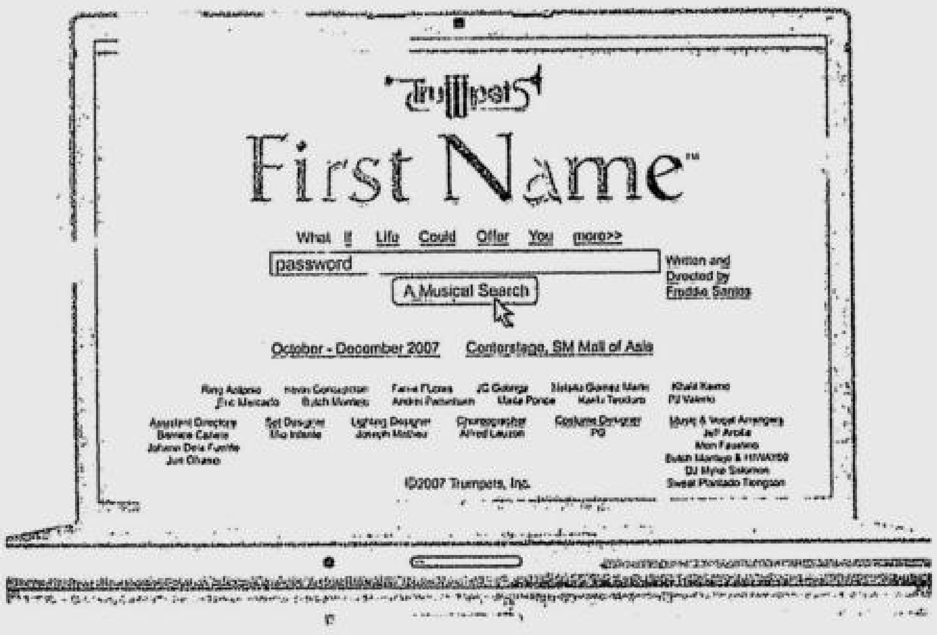
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1. HALLOWEEN
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. UNREST
5. RESIDENT EVIL 3
6. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7. 11TH HOUR
8. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10. RENDITION
11. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1. HALLOWEEN
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. HIGHLANDER V

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1. RENDITION
2. HALLOWEEN
3. UNREST
4. HIDE AND SEEK.

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1. BALLS OF FURY
2. HALLOWEEN
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. 30 DAY OF NIGHT

SM CINEMA CENTERStage



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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
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2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. HALLOWEEN
5. UNREST
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1. HALLOWEEN
2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. STARDUST
4. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5. HIDE AND SEEK
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. HALLOWEEN
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1. THE SEEKER. THE DARK IS RISING
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. STARDUST
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. KUNG FU FIGHTER
3. HALLOWEEN
4. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6. HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1. STARDUST
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1. STARDUST
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. HALLOWEEN
4. NO RESERVATIONS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1. HIDE AND SEEK
2. HALLOWEEN
3. BALLS OF FURY
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2. HIGHLANDER V
3. HIDE & SEEK
4. HALLOWEEN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1. HIGHLANDER V
2. STARDUST
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5. BRATZ
6. HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. HALLOWEEN
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1. MR. WOODCOCK
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3
5. STARDUST
6. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
7. RESERVED
8. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1. STARDUST
2. HALLOWEEN
3. SHOOT EM' UP
4. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5. BRATZ/ OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7. HIDE & SEEK
8. KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2. SHOOT EM' UP
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3/ DECEMBER BOYS
4. HIDE AND SEEK

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GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
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UNREST 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	BALLS OF FURY 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 4:20 / 9:20	
SUPER BAD 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	RENDITION 1:50 / 6:50	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	30 DAYS OF NIGHT 12:45 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00

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Significant infusion of reality

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY MOVIES PRODUCED AND shown these days are fantasy productions. Viewers love watching them because they provide excitement, visual magic and escape, which stressed and troubled people feel they need a lot of these days.

That's perfectly understandable, but too many escapist movies can dull or sap the mind and heart. So, we also need some reality-based films to challenge us, cause us to care about the here and now, and to feel strongly for other people in conflict.

Hot off the headline

One such significant infusion of reality is provided by the current film, "Rendition," which takes its story hot off the headline, dramatizing the shocking injustice of the torture of suspected terrorists in the US military's desperation to win the war against terror.

What makes the plot of "Rendition" even more shocking is the fact that the suspected "terrorist" and torture victim is an Egyptian national who has a green card, is married to an American (**Reese Witherspoon**) and has lived in the States for many years.

He is deprived of all of his rights and made to disappear from the face of the earth, because he's suspected of having sold secret information about US security to a well-known terrorist.

Protesting his innocence, the suspected mole is savagely tortured to within an inch of his life and sanity—until he breaks down and "confesses."

But the young CIA field operative on top of the case (**Jake Gyllenhaal**) suspects that the prisoner is simply trying to avoid being tortured to death, and eventually acts on his conviction, sending the entire CIA machinery into a tumult.

> We need reality-based films to challenge us as too many escapist movies can dull or sap the mind and heart

Particularly incensed is the official in charge of the covert rendition process, played by **Meryl Streep**. But even her anger proves to be no match for the desperate zeal of the prisoner's wife (Witherspoon), a "nobody" who is able to move heaven and earth to save her tormented husband.

'Psychological editing'

What's exceptionally gripping about "Rendition" is its ability to keep all of its diverse elements in play, by way of "psychological editing."

Thus, even as the prisoner is suffering in detention, without hope of surviving his ordeal, his wife is storming the walls and halls of poker-faced officialdom to secure his release—even as the CIA field operative finds himself wrestling with his conscience—*and* Streep's character defends her lack of moral compunction as the only way to save thousands of lives.

That's the film's thematic linchpin, that one man's life is as much worth fighting for as the theoretical thousands saved from suicide terrorist' "holy" bombs.

The fact that the movie ultimately ends up on the side of the angels makes it an inspiring production, despite all of the pain and bleakness involved.

The icing on the cake is the high level of portrayals turned in by Streep, Gyllenhaal, Witherspoon and the film's other major players. The utter realism of their acting work enables the story's drama and conflict to get you in the gut and make you painfully empathize with its suffering characters, as though it was you who was being viciously tortured to confess to a crime you didn't commit.

'Great Indian Wedding'

CLICK!

DISCOVERY TRAVEL & LIVING BRINGS the beauty and splendor of India in a week-long special starting tonight at 9.

Tonight's feature, "The Great Indian Wedding," explores cities like Udaipur in Rajastan, Mumbai, Jaisalmer and Pushkar.

It features a personal account of preparations preceding the wedding of hotelier Vikram Chatwal and model Priya Sachdev.

'Amazing Race'

New twists are introduced in the new season of "The Amazing Race 12," which premieres on Studio 23 live at 9 a.m. today.

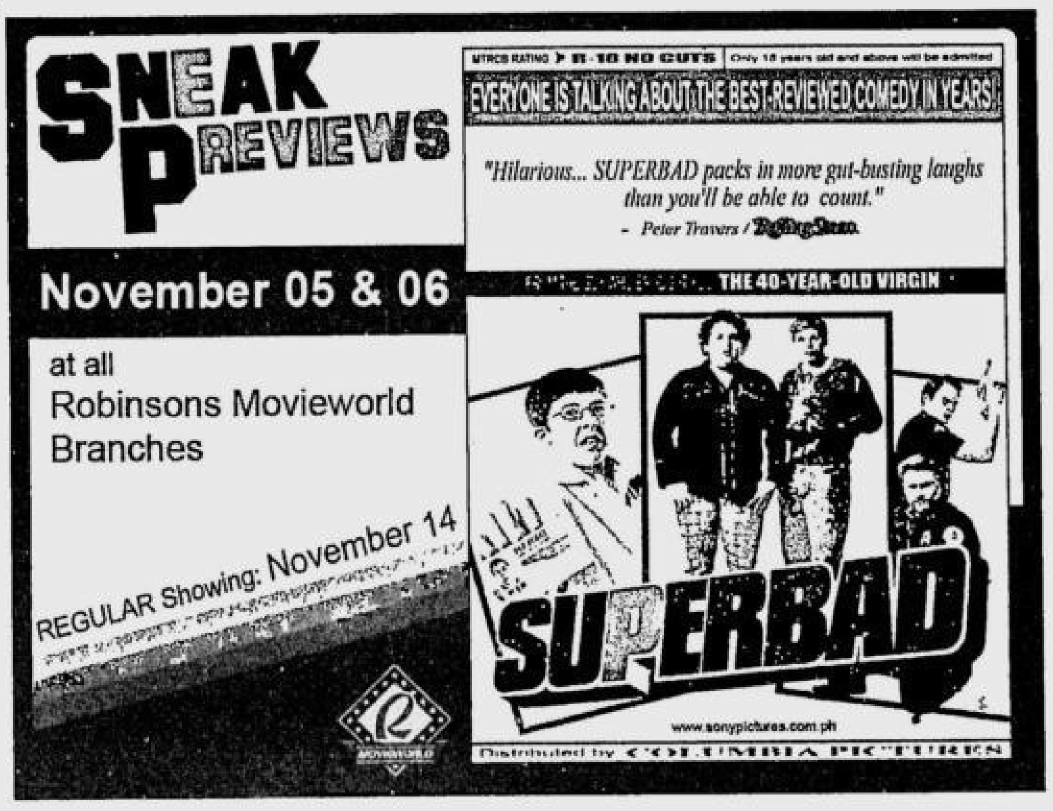
The reality competition brings together 11 teams who will travel 30,000 miles around the world for 30 days.

'The Triumph'

Matthew Perry stars in "The Triumph," a movie based on the real-life saga of Ron Clark, the charming, ambitious young man who takes on the challenge of teaching in one of New York City's under-funded schools.

In his attempt to instill discipline among his pupils, Ron confronts failure and violence.

The movie premieres on Nov. 11 at 10 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel.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JOEL TORRE JACLYN JOSE
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Music NONONG BUENCAMINO Special participation RAMON ZAMORA
Introducing IRISH CONTRERAS
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Jimi Concepcion Susan Corpuz Pipoy, Jr. Betong Inah Alegre
Executive Producer ANTHONY V. GEDANG
Written and Directed by NEAL TAN
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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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GLORIETTA 1	1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	2 HALLOWEEN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 HIDE & SEEK
GLORIETTA 4	1 DADDY DAY CAMP	2 SUPER BAD	3 THX BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HALLOWEEN	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 HALLOWEEN	2 BALLS OF FURY		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DADDY DAY CAMP GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX BALLS OF FURY	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 HALLOWEEN	4 SUPER BAD	5 STARDUSTRENDITION	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HALLOWEEN	2 HIDE & SEEK	3 KUNG FU FIGHTER	4 SUPER BAD
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 SUPER BAD	4 HALLOWEEN	5 BALLS OF FURY	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 THE UNREST	3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 SUPER BAD	6 RENDITION	7 THX HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

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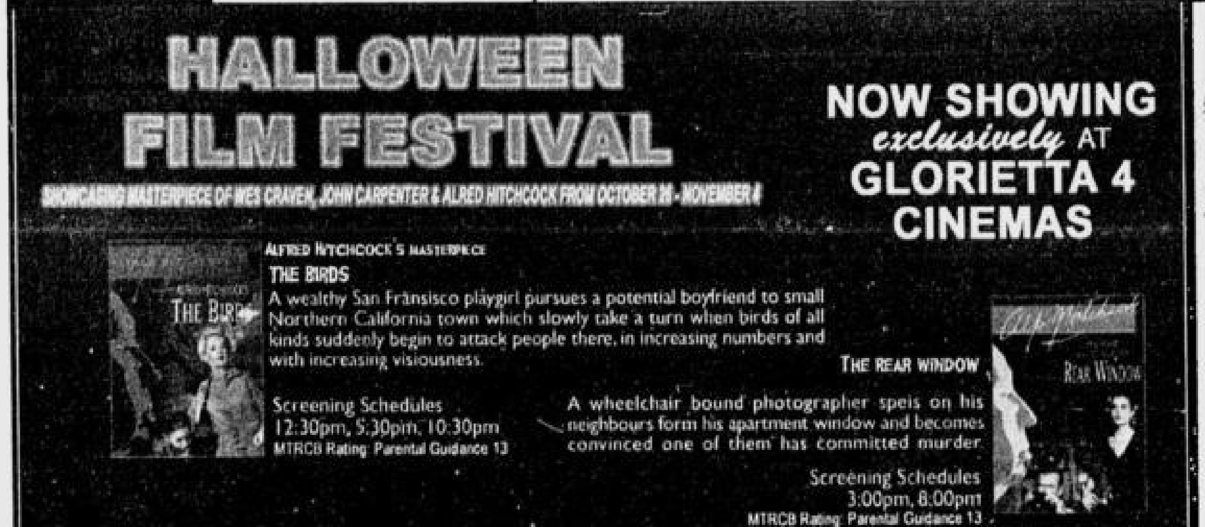
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Seussical The Musical November 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	The Tasting Room October 15 to December 31, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	TOWN NIGHTS featuring The Bloomfields Live! November 10; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Installment Madness November 6 to 15; Paseos, Intersections and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Home for the Holidays Outlet Sale November 5 to 8; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Kuh Ledesma with the UP Jazz Ensemble November 4; 6pm; Activity Center


HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL
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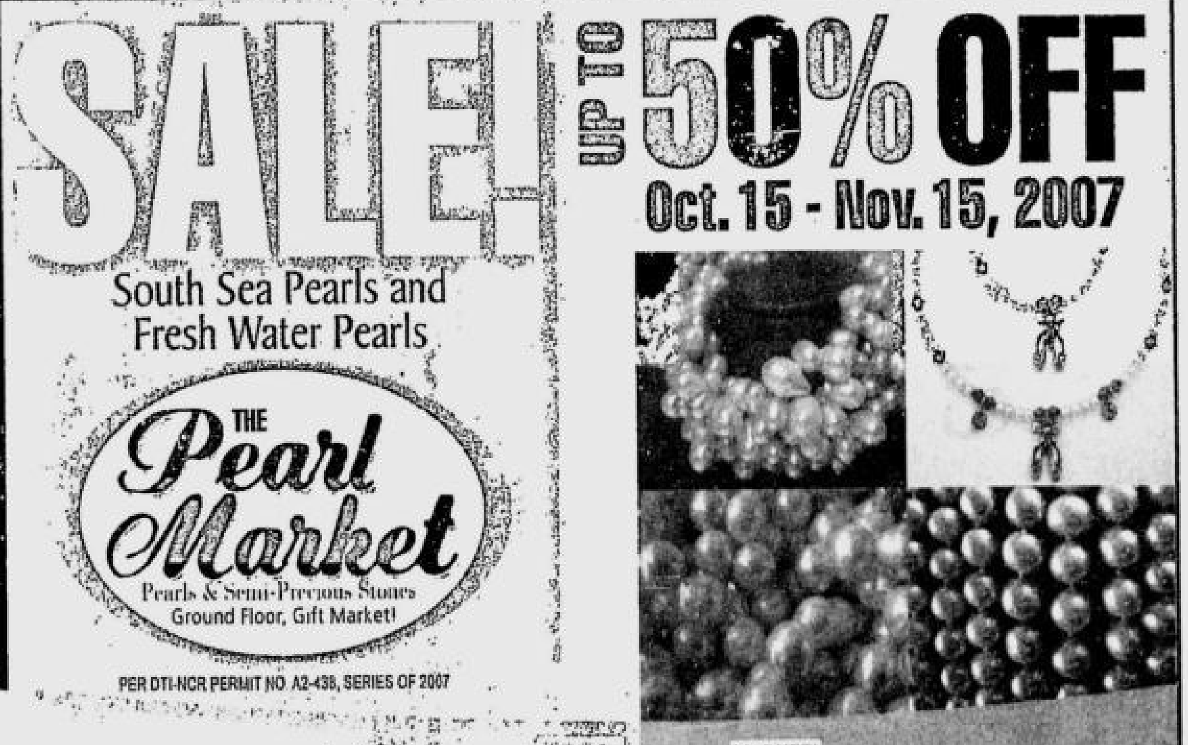
A wealthy San Fransisco playgirl pursues a potential boyfriend to small Northern California town which slowly take a turn when birds of all kinds suddenly begin to attack people there, in increasing numbers and with increasing visiousness.
Screening Schedules
12:30pm, 5:30pm, 10:30pm
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
THE REAR WINDOW
A wheelchair bound photographer speis on his neighbours form his apartment window and becomes convinced one of them has committed murder.
Screening Schedules
3:00pm, 8:00pm
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
WATCH THE HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL & GET SPECIAL TREATS FROM
Promo Period: October 26 to November 4, 2007
See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-470. Series of 2007.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South Sea Pearls and Fresh Water Pearls
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Pearls & Semi-Precious Stones
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-438, SERIES OF 2007
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